Tsujitomo
ツジトモ

原案・取材協力
Tsunamoto masaya
綱本将也

講談社
モーニングKC

vol.20

GIANT KILLING
ジャイアントキリング

モーニングKC2023

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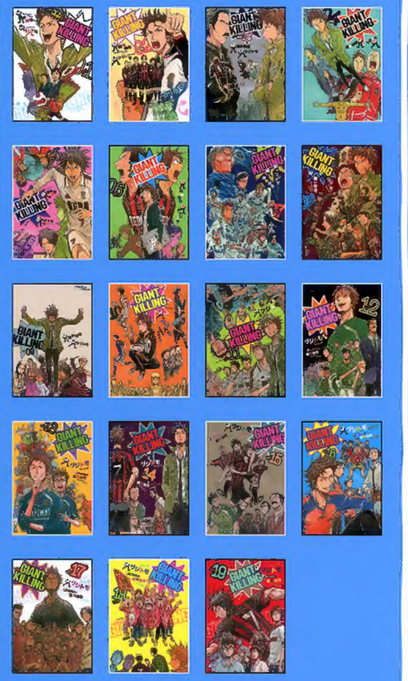
ETUの猛攻に耐え続けるモンテピア山形。
その間、山形の監督・佐倉も考え続けていた
新たなシステムは、運海も事前に気づき恐れていた、
そのシステムは、運海も事前に気づき恐れていた、
山形進化への可能性だった!!

GIANT KILLING
20

HISTORY OF ETU



GIANT KILLING
ジャイアントキリング

Cover Design: Garowa Graphico

ツジトモ　原案・取材協力 綱本将也

GIANT KILLING

20

A horror story that happened in Yamagata

This is a true story ...

One night, when I tried to go home from the club house...

DOOMED

So it's me this time.

y- yeah

JOLT

Oooh ~~!!

That was scary

AND THEN!!

.....

BWO

When I wondered if it was will-o'-wisp...

it got closer and closer to me...

OM

Suddenly I saw a light in the darkness,

You, tell a horror story!

It is a horror story in a sense.

It was Ken-sama.

Ken-sama really is always shining.

Yo, Maru-oka!

It's dark so be careful on your way home.

THE END.

#188

ドドド

LIKE I'LL LET YOU MAKE A FAST BREAK!

HIT TO ME, KOMORI!!

ONE-TWO!

#8 SEKO GETS IN-VOLVED, EVEN HERE!!

FAST BREAK!!

BE ON GUARD AGAINST 2 STRIK-ERS!!

SON OF A

THAT'S A GOOD BALL!

THAT WILL GIVE THEM A CHANCE!

.....

THIS GAME DEFI-NITELY...

BUT ONCE I GET AHOLD OF THIS...

OKAY...! I GOT A GOOD JUMP ...!

I WAS SWAYED BY SOME DISTRACTING THOUGHTS...

I CAN DO IT...!!

LIKE KEN-SAN HAS SAID BEFORE...!!

HE'S GOING TO SHOOT!!

KURO! SANO!!

ゴボリ!
ズ
ズ
ズ

AND THAT GUY FALLS EVERY TIME!

GH...

LUCKY, LUCKY

GREAT! HE MISSED!

HE OVERSHOT! WE ARE SAVED BY HIS MESSY ATTACK!

EVEN IF IT'S A FAST ATTACK, THEY RU-SHED IT TOO MUCH.

TCH. WHAT A WASTE

IT'LL BE EF-FECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.

THIS SHOT NOW.

...IT MAY SEEM LIKE THAT ON THE SURFACE.

RIGHT.

HE MISSED THE GOAL GREATLY, BUT

THAT SPEED AND SHOOTING SENSE ARE QUITE GOOD.

ON THE CONTRA-RY, FOR MARUOKA

CUTTING IN AND OUT PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE SO FROM NOW ON HIS ATTACKING OPTIONS WILL INCREASE.

WITH THIS KURODA WILL BE ON GUARD MORE AND MORE TO NOT LET HIM TAKE THE BACK.

ALTHOUGH THEIR ATTACKING PATTERNS MAY BE LIMITED...

THEY CLEVERLY MATCHED PLAY-ERS' SKILLS FOR THEM. THAT'S PROBA-BLY HOW YAMAGATA PLAYS...

EVEN IF THEIR OVERALL ABILITIES AREN'T THAT GREAT,

SAME FOR KANNO ON THE LEFT...

THE DECISIVE PLAYERS CAN THREATEN OPPONENTS WITH JUST THAT.

MORE-OVER,

SPEAKING ABOUT EFFECTIVE, THERE'S SEKO.

YAMAGATA HAS SUCH A SOLID DEFENSE BECAUSE OF HIS HARD WORK.

HE TENDS TO BE IN THE SHADOW OF MENDES'S PRESENSE, BUT

HE STEPPED UP HIS PRES-ENCE

IN THOSE 2-3 YEARS...

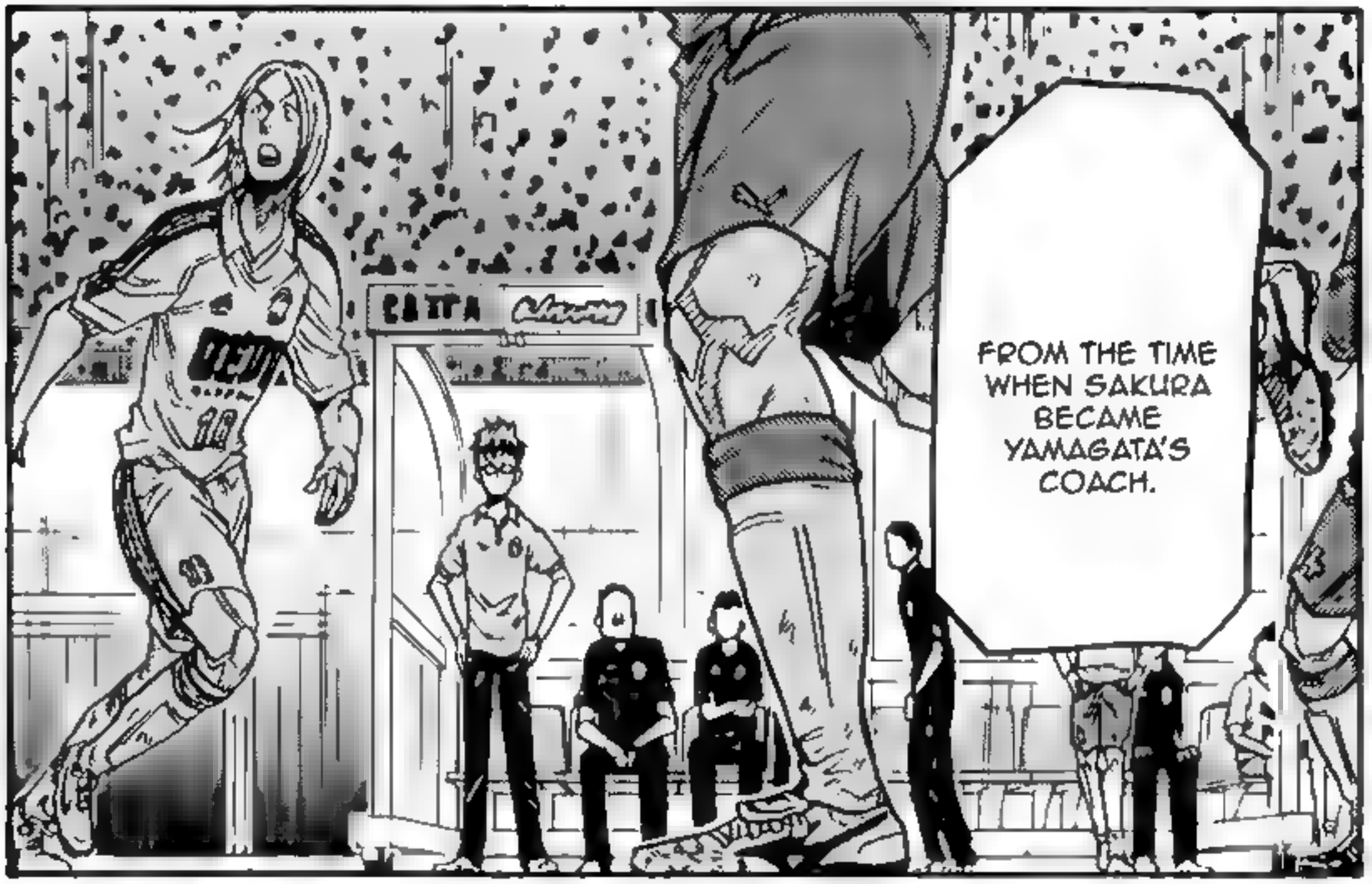
FROM THE BEGINNING HE HAD GREAT STAMINA AND MARKING

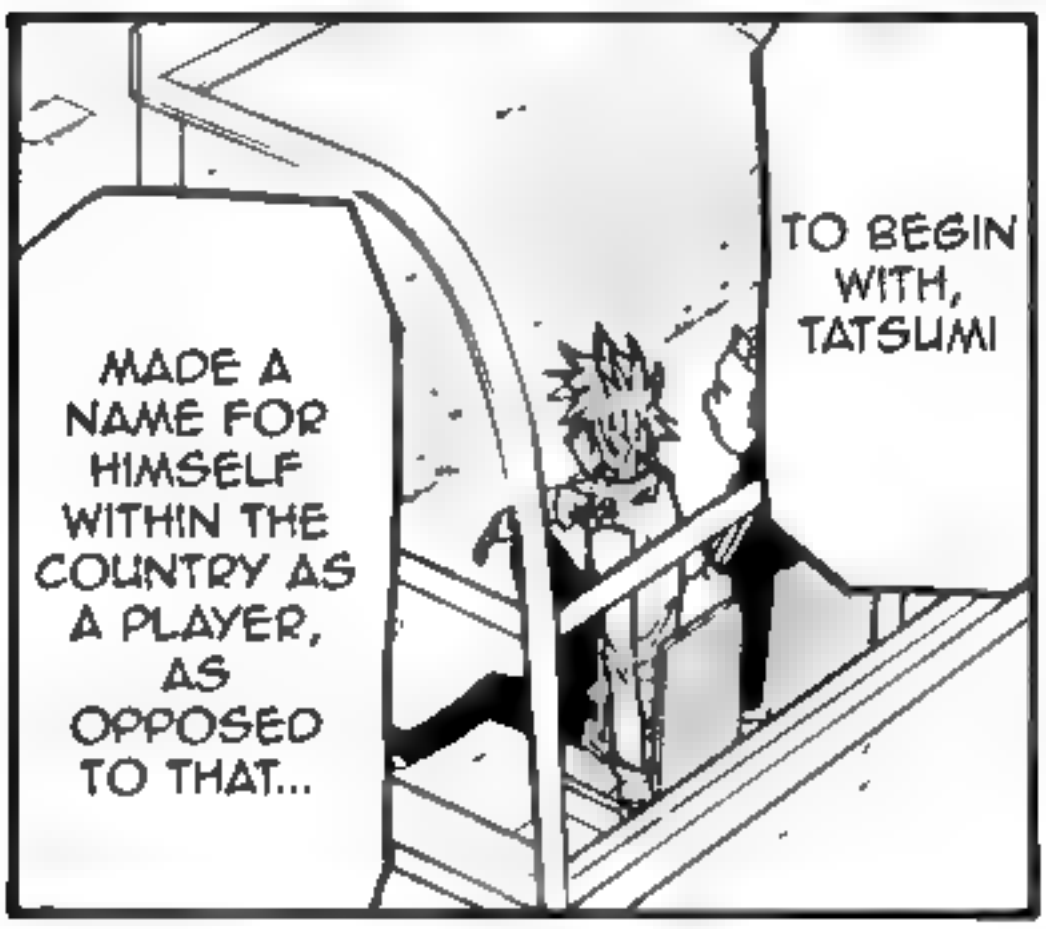
BUT HE WASN'T SUCH A RELIABLE PLAYER BEFORE.

BUMP

OKAY! I GOT PUMPED UP!

YOU REACT TOO MUCH TO EVERY-THING!


FROM THE TIME WHEN SAKURA BECAME YAMAGATA'S COACH.


TO BEGIN WITH, TATSUMI
MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF WITHIN THE COUNTRY AS A PLAYER, AS OPPOSED TO THAT...

HE MAY BE QUITE A CAPA-BLE MAN,
SAKURA.

YOU CAN SAY, AS A PLAYER

SAKURA HAS... NO EXPERIENCE AT ALL.

ONTEBIA

FICHTON

GRETCH

NAH....

THAT'S RIGHT. PLEASE TEACH US, TSUBAKI-SA~N.

EEK!?

WHAT SHOULD THEY DO NOW, HUH?

TSUBAKI-SAN, WHO HAS THE MOST APPEARANCES FOR ETU THIS SEASON.

I THINK WE HAD GOOD ATTACKS...

BUT IT'S QUITE HARD TO FIND AN OPENING IN YAMAGATA'S DEFENCE.

IT'S A JOKE. A JOKE.

BUT FOR ETU, A PATTERN OF ATTACK WITH YOU IN IT IS VERY IMPORTANT...

WH-WHY DID YOU PUT IT LIKE THIS!!

HA-HA.

THEY ARE JEAL-OUS OF YOU, TSUBA-KI...

OH? YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?

EVEN THOUGH YOU PLAYED IN SO MANY GAMES?

I-I DON'T KNOW!!

OH?

YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO ANSWER TO THE LIKES OF US, GUYS WHO ARE JUST RESERVES FOR ETERNITY?

INDEED, TSUBAKI ISN'T PLAYING,

BUT WE ARE RATTLING THE OPPO-NENT BY RANDOMLY ATTACKING FROM THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.

HAH

.....

WHY IS IT LIKE THIS!?

HM?

SO IF WE LOSE, TSUBAKI-SAN WILL BE RESPON-SIBLE FOR IT TOO.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY AT THAT TIME ?

SHAVE YOUR HAIR OFF?

IT'S NOT JEAL-OUSY, BUT JUST TEASING, HUH... OH MAN.

HA HA

YEAH!!

RIGHT, DORI-SAN!

WHILST DEFENDING, YAMAGATA WILL SLOWLY EXHAUST ITSELF, DON'T YOU THINK?

EVEN IF THEY CAN REACT TO IT NOW

AND THE LAST TIME WE PLAYED AGAINST THEM, WE SCORED FROM A SET PLAY THAT WE GOT FROM CONTINUED ATTACKS...

IT SEEMS OUR PASSING IS IMPROVING AS THE MATCH CONTINUES...

THERE WAS MORE, RIGHT?

ONE MORE STRONG POINT OF OURS.

SEE

...SO AH!!

.....

HIT

GOOD...!

RIGHT...!

IN THE MATCH LAST TIME... THE ONE WHO CUT INTO YAMAGA-TA'S DEFENSE AND CREATED A SCORING CHANCE, WAS...

OH

FINALLY HE WAS ABLE TO GET THE BALL IN A GOOD POSITION

AS I THOUGHT...

HE'S NOT A BIG DEAL!!

AKASA-KI...!!!

UEDO 85

.....

BUT THIS SPACE..

I CAN CUT THROUGH IT...

I HAVE A CLEAR SHOT...!

SHOULD I SHOOT ...!?

KASAKI

WHAT'S WANTED FROM ME IN THIS GAME...

THAT'S RIGHT...

HE CAME!!

IF YOU WANT TO STOP ME, THEN STRIKE MY LEGS LIKE THE LAST TIME...

HE WENT FOR IT!!

NAKANO!!

AND GIVE US A FOUL!!

AKASA-KI!!

OOH!! NAKANO, NICE COVER!!

OKADO

KINOSHITA

KH

STOP HIM! STOP HIM!!

AAH

SO CLOSE !!

YOU CAN DO IT NEXT TIME! NEXT TIME!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, ORAA!!

KUROKI

YOU'RE LATE WITH ATTACK!!

.....

AS EXPECTED, WHILE THERE ARE A LOT OF CONNECTED PLAYS

THE ATTACK FROM THAT DRIBBLE SEEMS EFFECTIVE!

OKAY, OKAY. NOT BAD!!

GOOD, AKASAKI

.....

JUST LIKE THAT, NAKANO!

NICE PLAY!

IT GETS LIKE THAT BE-CAUSE HE PASSES OVER ONE PLAYER.

EH

.....

THAT DAMN BASTARD.

HOW IS IT, COACH SAKURA?

オ
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COACH TATSUMI YOU ADMIRE SO MUCH?
DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE TODAY YOU CAN GET THE BEST OF
……
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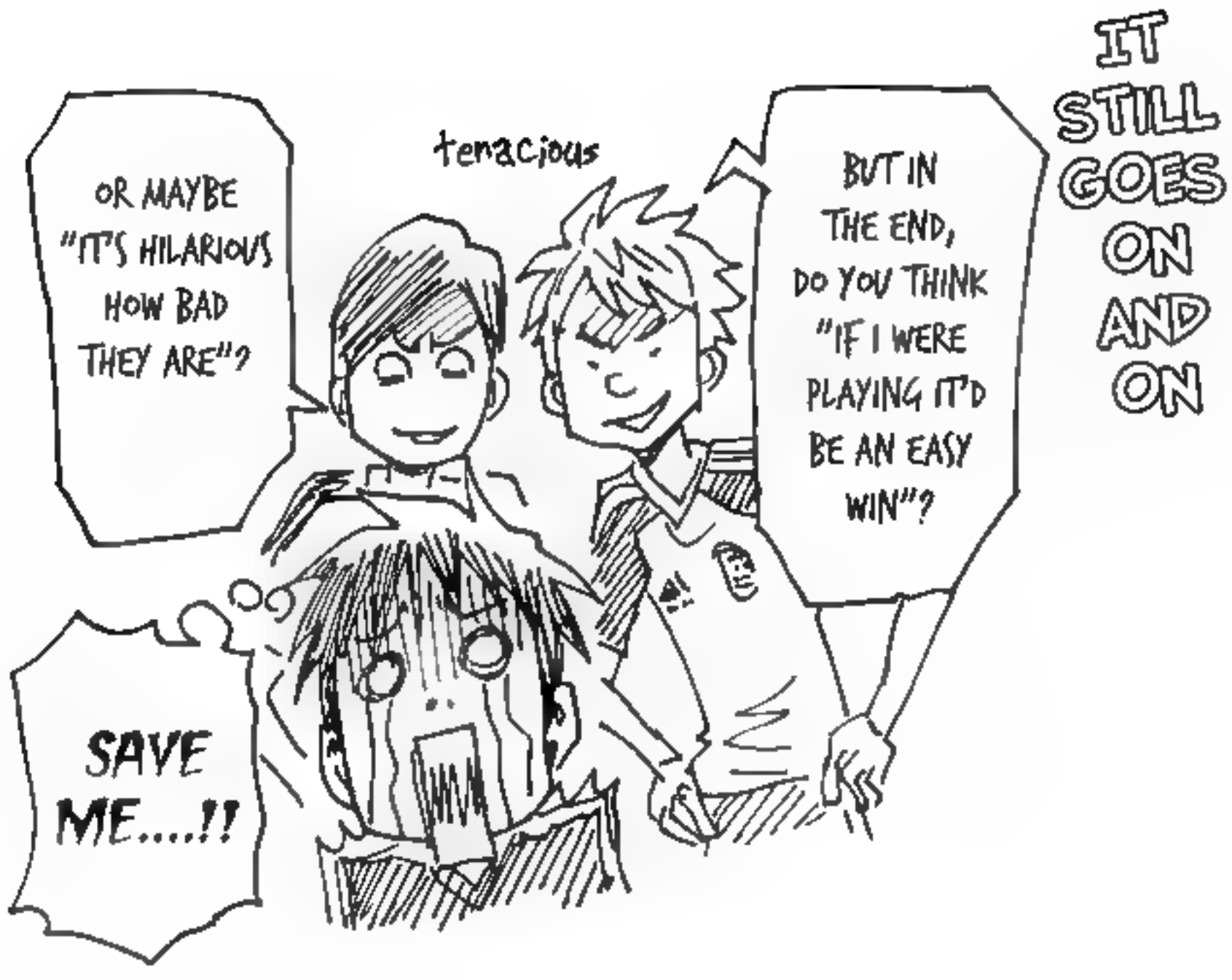
tenacious
OR MAYBE "IT'S HILARIOUS HOW BAD THEY ARE"?
BUT IN THE END, DO YOU THINK "IF I WERE PLAYING IT'D BE AN EASY WIN"?
IT STILL GOES ON AND ON
SAVE ME....!!

GIANT
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#189

AKASAKI AGAIN!!

UWOOH!!!

KH...

AKASAKI 16

GIVE IT BACK AT ONCE, AKASAKI!

DON'T FORCE IT!

IT'S USE-LESS!!

EVEN IF HE OVER-TAKES ONE, ANOTHER PLAYER COMES TO TAKE CARE OF HIM IMMEDI-ATELY!

HE CAN'T SHAKE THEM OFF!

.....

AKASAKI 16

MENDES JUMPED SO HIGH!!

AS EXPECTED, THERE'S AN IRON WALL IN FRONT OF YAMAGATA'S GOAL!!

GOO~D, GOOD

YOU'RE DEFENDING TIGHTLY!

THE OPPO-NENTS ARE STARTING TO LACK AT-TACKING FORCE!

DAMN

IT SEEMS WE CAN CREATE A SCORING OPPORTU-NITY, BUT WE CAN'T!

COACH TATSUMI, WHOM YOU ADMIRE SO MUCH?

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE TODAY YOU CAN GET THE BEST OF

I ADMIRE SO MUCH, HUH...

COACH TATSUMI...

#189

THWACK

YOU'RE IN THE WAY!

OW!

HE-HEY

GO, GO, SHIN-CHAN!

PASS, PASS

HM?

AOZORA FC

SAKU-CHAN

OH

UWAH

IT'S SO NARROW I CAN'T DRIBBLE!

SLIPS

OOH!!

YOU WERE IN A GREAT POSITION, SAKURA!!

O~KAY ...!

SFX:BONK

PLEASE DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME, SAKURA.

I KNOW YOU ARE DOING YOUR BEST, BUT...

WAAH

pii-pii

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SAKURA?

I UNDER-STAND.

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE ON THE TEAM WHO CAN'T KEEP-UP THE BALL 10 TIMES.

I STILL CAN'T USE A GUY WHO CAN'T EVEN TRAP THE BALL IN A GAME.

.....

I'LL TRY HARDER.

AND LATELY, I'VE BEEN KNOCKED DOWN EVEN IF I COL-LIDE WITH A GIRL...

YOUR POSI-TIONING TO RECEIVE THE PASS WAS GOOD.

WELL ...

BUT

.....

YOU'D HAVE HAD A CHANCE IF YOU COULD TRAP THE BALL WELL THERE.

I WAS IMPRESSED BY THAT.

THE TEAMMATES AND THE OPPONENTS ALWAYS GATHER IMMEDIATELY AROUND THE BALL.

THAT... I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FROM BEFORE,

AND ...

SAKURA, DID YOU THINK OF THAT YOURSELF?

IF THE OPPONENTS ATTACK TOGETHER

IT'D BE GOOD IF IN THAT SITUATION

SOMEONE PULLS AWAY TO RECEIVE THE BALL.

EH?

YES

.....

SO IF SOMEONE WAS HERE AND HERE, WE COULD ATTACK RIGHT AWAY.

WHEN WE TAKE THE BALL, THERE'S SO MUCH FREE SPACE ON THE GROUND

AND THE SAME FOR DEFENSE,

.....

BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE AN EYE FOR FOOT-BALL.

YOU ARE LACKING AS A PLAYER...

I DIDN'T NOTICE IT THEN...

.....

BUT I CONSIDER THOSE WORDS

AS MY STARTING POINT...

HOWE-VER AT THAT TIME

WHAT 'ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL ME' WAS THINKING

IS THAT I WANT TO PLAY AMONG THEM...

ONLY THAT.

AH...

NO...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SAKURA? YOU IDIOT!

DON'T TRY TO DO ADVANCED STUFF WHEN YOU HAVE NO SKILLS!

I JUST TRIED TO DRIBBLE NORMALLY...

IT CONTINUED IN [redacted] AND HIGH SCHOOL.

UHE !?

ITS FORM SLOWLY STARTED TO CHANGE.

MY PASSION TOWARDS FOOTBALL INCREASED, BUT...

AS EXPECTED, FOOTBALL IN EUROPE IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL.

THIS IS THE BEST GAME OF THIS SEASON FOR ME!

OOH! THANK YOU, SAKURA!

HERE

RATHER THAN INTELLI-GENCE, IT'S LIKE THEY LEAD THE OPPONENT AROUND BY THE NOSE?

AND WHEN THEY BECOME A STAR PLAYER, THEY HAVE EVEN MORE LEEWAY.

HOW SHOULD I SAY IT,

THEY USE TEAM TACTICS SKILLFULLY,

BUT YOU CAN ALSO FEEL THE INTELLI-GENCE FROM THE PLAYERS TOO...

.....

YOU REALLY GET FASCI-NATED WHEN WATCHING THEM.

EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE THE MOST LOUSY PLAYER AT THE FOOT-BALL CLUB.

AGAIN, ONLY THINGS YOU ARE SAYING MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL PLAYER...

THE LEVEL OF JAPANESE FOOTBALL WAS RAISED TOO,

BUT THERE STILL ISN'T A PLAYER OF SUCH LEVEL.

.....

CAN YOU STOP

BEING SO LOUD?

JUST HOW BAD ARE YOUR REFLEX-ES?

YOU CAN'T KEEP-UP THE BALL MORE THAN 20 TIMES, EVEN IN HIGH SCHOOL.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!

WELL,

FOR US FOOTBALL IS CLUB ACTIVITIES WHERE WE PLAY WITH OUR ALL...

YOU KNOW, THIS GUY WATCHES FOOTBALL GAMES

AND MAKES NOTES ON ANALYSIS AND SUCH?

.....

CAN YOU STOP PUR-POSELY SAYING IT

TO THE GIRLS?

HE'S AN OTAKU*. OTAKU!

(T/N: GEEK OR NERD)

COMPLETELY YOUR HOBBY.

BUT FOR YOU, SAKURA, FOOTBALL IS...

NANA

...

AT ANY RATE I IMMERSED MYSELF IN WATCHING FOOTBALL.

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IF IT'S A HOBBY OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR ME, BUT...

TV OR VIDEO... OR GOING TO WATCH LIVE GAMES...

I WATCHED FOOT-BALL ON A DAILY BASIS.

FOOT-BALL HAS A THEORY,

AND THERE'S A REASON FOR VICTORY OR DEFEAT.

THE MORE I KNEW...

THE MORE INTELLECTUAL AND FASCINATING IT WAS...

HOWEVER...

THE PLACE WHERE I REALLY WANTED TO BE...

AMONG THEM...

I COULDN'T BE

I QUIT KICKING THE BALL

IN THE WINTER OF MY 2ND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.

HEY, HEY

USING STUD-YING FOR EXAMS

AND DETERI-ORATION OF MY EYE-SIGHT AS AN EXCUSE

.....

SAKURA-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

.....

DON'T JUST WATCH FOOTBALL AND THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!?

OF COURSE! WE ARE ALREADY 3RD-YEARS!?

YOU MEAN ABOUT EMPLOY-MENT?

I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT AT ALL...

EMPLOY-MENT, HUH...

IF WE DON'T TAKE JOB HUNTING SERIOUSLY, WE'LL BE UNEMPLOYED AFTER UNIVERSITY!?

SPRING IN 3RD YEARD OF UNIVERSITY...

MAYBE I SHOULD BECOME A SPORTS WRITER...

FINALLY BECAME A MERE HOBBY.

FOOTBALL FOR ME...

SOME-HOW IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

WRITING ABOUT FOOT-BALL AS MY JOB...

ｱｱｱｱ

ｱｱｱｱ

BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE IT PER SE...

WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT WAS.

AND I KEPT LIVING

FROM THE DAY I GAVE UP BEING A PLAYER...

A BIG HOLE OPENED IN MY HEART.

UNTIL THIS DAY..

RIGHT...

EVEN THOUGH A GUY YOUNGER THAN ME WORKS HARD ON HIS PRO DEBUT

WHY AM I JUST IDLING AWAY?...

A SUB-STITU-TION...?

I DON'T KNOW HIM.. NO-NAME ROOKIE, HUH?

PLAY AS IF HE MAKES FUN OF HIS OPPO-NENTS. .!
WHAT'S WITH HIS ...

WH...

!!
!!

ISN'T...

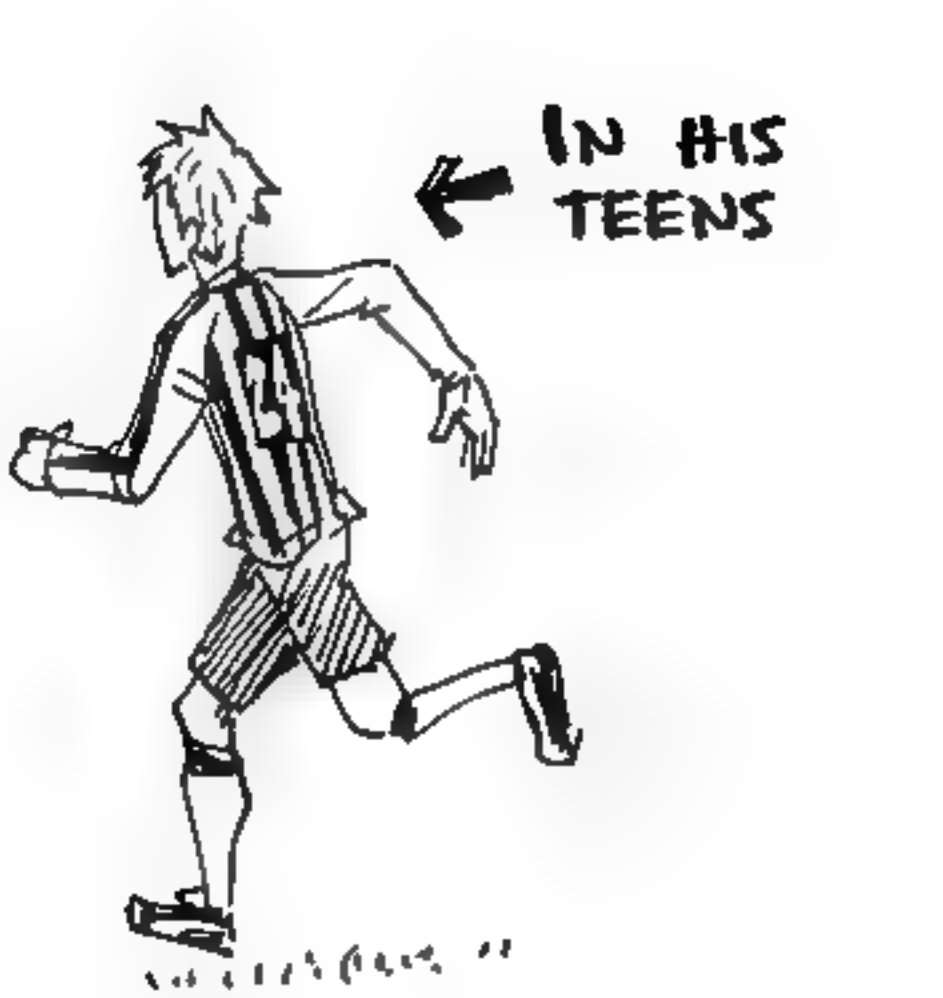
A PLAY FROM A ROOKIE JUST FROM HIGH SCHOOL...!

BUT HE'S STILL PROPERLY SIZING UP THE SITUATION...!

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO ON A WHIM!

TATSUMI TAKESHI...!!

189 end


IN HIS
TEENS

GIANT
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HE OUT-SMARTED HIS OPPONENTS FOR FUN...

AND ALWAYS SUPERBLY ATTACKED

WHERE THEY HATED IT.

AND YET THE IMPRES-SION FROM HIM

WASN'T "INTELLI-GENCE" OR "CUN-NING"

TATSUMI TAKESHI'S PLAY

...BUT "IMPUDENCE"

LIKE A CHILD WHO WHO TEASES ADULTS...

AH!

I WANTED TO PLAY LIKE THAT TOO...!

AND ALSO

WHAT I ASPIRED TO BE...

IT WAS THE SAME NATURE AS WHAT I FELT

FROM THE STAR PLAYERS OVERSEAS, WHOM I'VE BEEN WATCHING FOR MANY YEARS...

YEAH!

IF YOU DO THAT, YOU IMMEDIATELY CAN SEND A QUICK-WITTED PASS...

YOU CAN WATCH THE SURROUND-INGS LIKE THIS...

I KNEW IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

ET

I BELIEVED IN THOSE WORDS.

...

YOU SEEM TO HAVE AN EYE FOR FOOTBALL.

INDEED, IT MAY BE PARTIALLY A HOBBY, BUT...

NO

BUT FOR YOU SOCCER FOOTBALLS

THAT MAY I

COMPLETELY YOUR HOBBY.

THE TRUE NATURE OF THE EMPTY HOLE IN MY CHEST...

... FINALLY REALIZED

END

I SEE..

I...

...

BUT COULDN'T GIVE UP...

PRETENDED TO GIVE UP..

WANTED TO STAND ON THE PITCH...

I ALWAYS

#190

A WISH THAT WOULDN'T COME TRUE ANYMORE...

AND THAT WAS

ALL THE SAME, TATSUMI IS AMAZ-ING.

AND HIS MEDIA EXPOSURE INCREASED TOO.

EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ETU, BUT HE FULLY BECAME A REGULAR PLAYER THERE...

TATSUMI'S FIELD OF VISION IS REALLY WIDE...

AND HE UNDER-STANDS FOOTBALL REALLY WELL.

UWOH! AMAZ-ING PASS!

HOW CAN YOU EVEN SEE HIM?!

OHHH!!

FROM TATSUMI TO GOTOU WHO WAS FREE!

IT SEEMS HE'D CREATE AN INTER-ESTING TEAM...

EVEN IF HE BECOMES A COACH...

FOR TODAY'S HERO INTERVIEW

THAT DAY TOO, I WAS CAPTIVATED BY TATSUMI TAKESHI'S PLAY, AS IF TO ESCAPE REALITY.

I JUST DID IT HALF-HEART-EDLY...

ALTHOUGH I SOME-WHAT STARTED JOB HUNTING...

THE SUMMER CAME...

WHO DEMON-STRATED AN OUTSTANDING PERFOR-MANCE, INCLUDING 1 GOAL AND 1 ASSIST!

WE HAVE SUPER ROOKIE TATSUMI TAKESHI

TATSUMI WILL DEFINITELY...

BE IN THE NATIONAL TEAM IN NEAR FUTURE IF IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS.

I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT MY OWN FUTURE!

...WHY AM I ACTING PROUD?

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT? YOUR FIELD OF VISION?

BUT YOU REALLY SEE OTHER PLAYERS' MOVEMENTS WELL.

BUT WELL...

WHEN I'M IN TOP FORM LIKE TODAY

AS ALWAYS, HIS ANSWERS ARE HALF-HEARTED ...

NOTHING SPECIAL.

.....

IT'S NORMAL.

IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY SEE IT THOUGH.

I CAN SEE THE WHOLE PITCH FROM ABOVE LIKE A BIRD.

HE GRASPS PLAYERS' POSITIONS AND MAKES A PROJEC-TION OF THEIR MOVE-MENTS.

SO TATSUMI PERCEIVES THAT WITH HIS BIRD'S-EYE VIEW'S IMAGE...!

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW...!

YOU DON'T UN-DERSTAND EVEN IF I SAY THIS, HUH.

AH... Y-YES

CAN I GO?

.....

THE SAME AS ME...

THEN ISN'T IT...

HOUSE

FOOTBALL ALWAYS WAS A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW.

FOR ME, WHO COULDN'T STAND ON THE PITCH,

IT FELT LIKE MY ENOR-MOUS NUMBER OF WATCHED GAMES AND MY RESEARCH INTO THEM

THAT SEEMED TO BE POINTLESS UNTIL NOW

WITH THOSE WORDS FROM TATSUMI

I ALWAYS LOOKED OVER THE WHOLE PITCH FROM A HIGH POSITION

WATCH-ING GAMES ON TV OR FROM THE STANDS

WERE APPROVED...

WE'RE SIMILAR.

IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT WE'RE SIMILAR, ISN'T IT...?!

.....

YEAH ...

I MEAN, IN OTHER WORDS...

OUR MINDS...

HOUSE

AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT, ARE THEY ...!?

AND OUR FAVORITE FOOTBALL STYLE IS THE SAME TOO...

ALTHOUGH THERE'S THE SUPER ROOKIE ON ONE HAND, AND THE STUPID UNIVERSITY STUDENT ON THE OTHER HAND...

!

FOR EXAM-PLE, IF TATSUMI AND I...

BECOME COACHES, EACH WITH OUR OWN TEAM...

WE'D MAKE SIMILAR TEAMS...

...

COACH?

THAT I DRAGGED WITH ME ALL ALONG.

MY FEELINGS TOWARDS THE PITCH,

THOUGHT IT WAS ABSURD, BUT

WHILE EVEN I

THAT WAS ACCUMU-LATED UNTIL NOW...

...AND THE PASSION TOWARDS FOOT-BALL,

12

A BRIGHT STRAIGHT PATH TO GO FROM HERE.

FORMED BEFORE MY EYES

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING!!

YOU'LL AIM TO BE A FOOTBALL COACH?!

SAKURA

A JOB WHERE YOU HAVE TO PERSUADE PLAYERS WITH YOUR OWN WORDS.

COACH IS

THERE WAS NO DOUBT ANYMORE.

THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO IS BAD AT SPORTS

AND DIDN'T EVEN CONTINUE HIS CLUB ACTIVITIES, CAN DO IT.

STARTED WITH PERSUADING MY OWN PARENTS.

MY FIRST STEP TO BECOME A COAH

I BEG YOU!

MY PASSION TOWARDS FOOT-BALL IS TWICE MORE THAN OTHERS!

I'LL DO ANY-THING!

THAT IS NOT THE POINT.

NO CAN DO.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WORK AT THE CLUB JUST LIKE THAT.

WITH THIS I

AND THEY SAID THEIR CLERK PART-TIMER QUIT.

WHICH REMINDS ME, THE OTHER DAY

I TALKED WITH SENDAI'S PR,

AS A CLERK PART-TIMER IN AN UNFAMILIAR LAND.

STARTED MY JOB AT A FOOTBALL'S FIELD SITE THAT I ALWAYS LONGED FOR,

OHH

WELL DONE!

HEAVE-HO

SO WE CAN PLAY AGAINST ETU, WHERE TATSUMI IS

I WANT OUR CLUB TO QUICKLY MOVE UP TO THE HIGHER DIVISION

AND FINALLY WAS APPOINTED AS ASSISTANT COACH OF THE ACADEMY. BUT THEN...

A FEW YEARS AFTER THAT. I PERSUADED A LOT OF STAFF FROM THE CLUB

MY HERO, TATSUMI TAKESHI,

DISAP-PEARED FROM THE WORLD OF JAPANESE FOOTBALL.

UWAAH!!

THEY SCORED!

I SHOWED GOOD RESULTS AT SENDAI'S ACADEMY

AND WAS INVITED AS COACHING STAFF FOR YAMAGATA'S YOUTH TEAM.

.....

DAMN!

JUST BEFORE THE END AGAIN!

5 YEARS AGO I TOOK UP A POSITION ON THE SENIOR TEAM

AND WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING IN THE LEAGUE'S DIVISION 2.

THWACK

WH?

.....

SAKURA, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG AND YOUR EXPERIENCE IS...

PRESI-DENT.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE NEXT COACH, WON'T YOU INCLUDE ME AS A CAN-DIDATE TOO?

WON'T YOU READ THAT FIRST?

THIS TEAM'S PROBLEM AREA, AND MY PLAN ON HOW TO IMPROVE IT THAT I OBSERVED IN MY OWN WAY.

2 YEARS FROM THEN ...

IT'S SETTLED!!!

pi

MONTEBIA YAMAGATA MOVES UP TO DIVISION 1!!!

COACH

WE DID IT!!!

Y-...

EAH!!

THIS IS EXACTLY

THE BEST MOMENT OF GREAT JOY THAT I'VE BEEN STRIVING FOR.

THE STAGE OF THE LEAGUE'S DIVISION 1 THAT I LONGED FOR,

DO YOU KNOW WHO IS GOING TO BE ETU'S COACH FOR THE NEXT SEASON?!

COACH!

AND...

THE STAGE OF MY DREAMS.

REALLY BECAME

#190 end

In the beginning of his pro career Tatsumi's mistakes played a large part too!

GIANT KILLING
Vol.20

#191

IS ETU'S COACH...?

TATSUMI TAKESHI...

KINGRIGE

THAT NEWS

THAT TATSUMI TAKESHI

THAN THE FACT THAT HE BECAME A COACH IN ENGLAND AND ADVANCED THROUGH THE FA CUP

WAS EVEN MORE SHOCKING

ON THE SAME STAGE...!

...AND I, CAN FIGHT...

#191

LIKE I'LL LET YOU

DIE!

GREAT, MENDES!

CA!

AIM FOR THE FRONT!

TOO LATE

THEY ARE GOING FOR A COUNTER AGAIN!

DEFENSE!!

ISN'T THE BACK BEING TARGETED TOO EASILY!?

THE DEFEN-SIVE LINE IS HIGH BECAUSE THEY ARE ON THE ATTACK!

ドドド

"

"

!!

THIS TIME FOR SURE...

OORYA

OOHH, SANO!

NICE DIVE!!

.....!

ドカ

KEEP-ER'S COACH, DON'T SAY OMI-NOUS THINGS ...

BUT WHEN AGGRES-SIVENESS AND A CARELESS MISTAKE HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME,

A KEEPER DEFINITELY CONCEDES THE GOAL. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A KEEPER MAKES A MISTAKE.

SANO SOMETIMES MAKES CARELESS MISTAKES, BUT...

.....

THAT AGGRES-SIVENESS IS HIS BIGGEST DIFFERENCE TO DORI!

SOOOO!

NICE KICK!

DAMN

WATCHING TATTSUMI'S FOOTBALL WHO TRIED TO OUTWIT HIS OPPO-NENTS JUST LIKE WHEN HE WAS A PLAYER...

IN THE END, WE BROUGHT THE GAME TO A DRAW, BUT

OUR FIRST MATCH...

OH!

AND AFTER THAT

THE ALL-STAR GAME

I WAS IN AND THE MIDDLE OF

I SAW TATSUMI'S BRILLIANCE AS A GAMBLER

BY LEADING THE SAVE TEAM

IS NOT TO BE AFFECTED BY TATSUMI EVEN MORE...!

WHAT I HAVE TO DO HERE

I CLIMBED TO THE SAME TOP STAGE...

WHILE USING A DIFFERENT APPROACH

IS TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE... TATTSUMI!

WHAT I HAVE TO DO HERE

NNM!

GUH....

DOWAH!!
HE MISSED!!!

haa
haa
WITH YOUR RAPID ATTACKS, TATTSUMI!
Y-YOU DON'T EVEN GIVE ME A BREAK TO THINK...
TSK
SO CLOSE, KOSHI-SAN!
DID ETU ATTACK SO AGGRES-SIVELY...!
BUT I WONDER THAT IF IN THE PAST GAMES
YEP, GOOD JOB!
GOOD JOB, ME!
HE MISSED BE-CAUSE OF THE PRES-SURE FROM MY DIVE...
THAT MUST BE IT!
'KAY, 'KAY
AH
MY BALL, MY BALL

DAHA

SORRY

I GOT CARRIED AWAY.

YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD SHAPE.

AND YOUR MOVE-MENTS FEEL SHARP?

I'M REALLY HOPELESS AT EVERYTHING, BUT PUTTING MY BODY ON THE LINE...

DAH, I'M SORRY

NO...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT...

REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT!

OOPS, I GOT CARRIED AWAY AGAIN!

.....

THAT'S WHY...

I CAN'T CONTAIN MY JOY,

WHEN MY EFFORTS WORK WELL AGAINST THE TEAMS IN DIVISION 1!

THE ORIGIN OF YAMAGATA'S DEVOTED TEAM PLAY...!?

IS THEIR INFERIORITY COMPLEX TOWARDS THE OPPONENTS

SUCH MODESTY

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON ..

AFTER THEIR MAGNIFICENT RESULTS

YES, HE STOLE THE BALL!

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SMASH THE BALL IN YAMAGATA'S GOAL!!

WHAT'S WITH THIS FEEL-ING?

WHAT'S THIS...

AND EVEN THOUGH WE SHOULD DOMINATE THE GAME'S PACE,

WE CLEARLY HAVE HIGHER BALL POS-SESSION...

SFX·PIIII

PRESSURE FROM THEM...

GRADU-ALLY LOOM-ING...

THINK...!

.....

...THAT'S WHY

ERRR...

...THERE-FORE...

ENTER

***

THEY ARE CERTAINLY AIMING FOR AN OPENING SOME-WHERE...

WHILE THEY DON'T GIVE US TIME TO THINK

ETU'S COACH IS THAT TATTSUMI ...!

EVEN IF THIS GAME'S THEME IS THEIR RECKLESS ATTACKS

IF WE PATIENTLY REPEAT IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

THE GAME'S FLOW WILL DEFI-NITELY...

BEFORE IT COMES TO THAT...

WE SHOULD MAKE ADJUST-MENTS AND TRY TO CATCH THEM OFF GUARD.

...LEAN TO OUR SIDE.

WHEN HE'S LIKE THIS, HE WON'T HEAR EVEN IF WE TRY TO CALL TO HIM.

IT STAR-TED.

SAKURA-SAN'S 'MUTTER-ING MODE'.

MUTTER MUTTER

ERR, AND THEN...

MURATA!

THE LEFT SIDE AND THE MIDDLE CAN PULL THROUGH BY THEM-SELVES!

FINALLY

COACH ALSO GOT HIS ENGINE GOING.

HEH.

HE WAS SOMEWHAT EAGER TO PLAY AGAINST TATSUMI-SAN, BUT

TAKE CARE OF THE DEVEL-OPMENT FROM THE RIGHT SIDE!

I'M GIVING IT BACK!

GOT IT!!

DON'T LET THEM SHOOT FROM THE MIDDLE !!

AKASA-KI!!

FOO

FOO

GOOD!!

OOH....!

SAKURA-SAN'S PREDIC-TION IS RIGHT ON MARK.

BAS-TARD ...

HE'S STEADILY

NICE, KOMORI!!

LOSING HIS SHARPNESS, AFTER ALL....!

KOMORI

OOH!!

NICE COVER, ISHIGAMI!

NOW THEN

PL

THE

FLU

VERY OBSERVANT, ISHIGAMI!

KIYOKAWA ON THE OTHER FLANK!

RIGHT, RIGHT!!

KEEP IT LIKE THAT, MURATA!!

YEAH!!

DAMN

LET'S REGROUP ONCE MORE!

GOOD JOB, MURATA!!

ETU IS HAVING GOOD ATTACKS.

THEY KEEP ON GIVING VARIETY TO THEIR ATTACKS SO THEY'D BE HARD TO DEFEND FOR THE OPPONENT.

.....

THEY ARE PULLING THRO-UGH.

YA-MA-GATA.

BUT EVEN MORE,

YAMAGATA'S SPIRIT SURPASSES EVEN THAT.

SURELY, THEY ARE PLAYING ALL OUT WHILE USING THEIR HEADS QUITE A LOT.

YOU CAN FEEL IT WHILE WATCHING.

THE MATCH WILL TURN TO YAMAGATA'S PACE RIGHT THERE.

AND IF THAT CHARISMATIC MAN SUCCESSFULLY JOINS YAMAGATA'S ATTACKS TOO,

.....

HAS THAT ABILITY.

THAT MAN

KEN

#191 end

Showing your triumph even while jumping...
You're already like Mario, Seko-san
YE-
AH!
BOING
SLIDE

GIANT
KILLING
vol.20

ホ ホ ホ

192

HIO

DARA AAH!!

NICE BLOCK

NICE ON THE LOOSE BALL!

AS EXPECTED OF MONTES!

YOUR SPIRIT IS SHOW-ING!!

RIGHT, HASE-GAWA.

KH

OOH !!

PRINCE WAS IN A GOOD POSI-TION!

YEAAAH! NICE PRESS, MARUOKA!!

NICE JOB, EVERYONE!!

ETU IS NO LONGER THAT FRIGHTEN-ING!

IN THIS PERIOD THEY'RE NOT LETTING ETU FINISH IT!!

THIS GAME... IS ALREADY GOING IN OURS, YAMAGATA'S, PACE!!

192

ｵｵｵ

IF YOU GET IN MY WAY TOO MUCH...

YOU'LL LOSE THE LADIES WHO ARE ROOTING FOR YOU, YOU KNOW?

EEH !?

ｵｵ

.....

ｵｵ

GRRRR...

.....

MARUOKA, YOU ARE MANAGING TO MARK HIM WELL!!

COACH SAKU-RA...

ｰｰｰ

YOU'RE DOING SO WELL, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME AS A STARTER, MARUOKA!!

WHEN YOU HOLD #10 LIKE THAT, THE BURDEN ON THE TEAM BECOMES MUCH LIGHTER!!

.....

THAT'S RIGHT

MAYBE IT'S ALL RIGHT TO CONSIDER MYSELF A BETTER PLAYER THAN KAN-CHAN!

AT LEAST...

IF KEN-SAN AND COACH SAY THINGS LIKE THAT...

THE PLAY HAS ALREADY STARTED, MARU!! YOU IDIOT!

I SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFI-DENCE IN MYSELF!!

?

THIS MATCH IS REALLY FRUSTRATING! HEY!!

GR...

EVEN THOUGH WE ATTACK SO MUCH, WE CAN'T SCORE A GOAL!! WHAT IS THIS, GOTOU-KUN!?

GRR RR...

THIS IS YAMAGATA'S FOOTBALL, VICE-PRESIDENT.

FOR THE LACK OF THEIR ABILITY TO SCORE... THEY DEFEND TOGETHER AND KEEP CONCEDED GOALS TO THE MINIMUM...

.....

THEY WON'T CONCEDE A GOAL THAT EASILY.

GRR R...

THEY'VE BEEN WINNING EVEN AGAINST POWERFUL OPPO-NENTS.

WITH THAT 'NO LOST GOALS' FOOTBALL

BUT IT'S QUITE HARD TO EXPECT RIGHT AWAY.

.....

YEAH.

ANYWAY, WE'D LIKE TO WAIT FOR THE OPPO-NENTS TO WEAKEN...

.....

CAN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING BESIDES SUPPORTING THE ENEMY!!?

THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO!?

THE PLAYERS' INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES AREN'T THAT HIGH, BUT...

THEIR ABILITY TO CONCEN-TRATE IS IMPRESSIVE.

IT'S HARD TO BREAK A TEAM THAT HAS SUCH STRONG CONSENSUS.

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ

WON'T COME THROUGH UNLESS THE COACH HOLDS THE PLAYERS TOGETHER WELL.

THE TEAM'S SYSTEM THAT I CAN SENSE FROM YAMAGATA...

DID A GOOD JOB ON CREATING SUCH TEAM

IN YAMAGA-TA'S ENVI-RONMENT, WHICH COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASY.

COACH SAKURA, WHO DOESN'T HAVE SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE AS A PLAYER... AND WHO RAISED TO THE TOP FROM BEING A CLUB'S PART-TIMER...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, TATSUMI?...

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE A HOLD OF THIS SITUATION?

ｱｱｱ

.....

AGAINST THEM,

ON HOW TO BREAK YAMAGATA'S TIGHT DEFENSE...!?

オ オ オ オ

DO YOU REALLY HAVE A PLAN...

SOME-HOW HE HAS AN AURA SO IT'S HARD TO CALL OUT TO HIM.

USUALLY HE HAS A RELAXED SIDE TO HIM, RIGHT?

KANE-DA...

EH

ISN'T COACH'S CONCEN-TRATION POWER TODAY... AWFULLY INCREDI-BLE?

.....

IT'S AN INDICATION OF HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT, ISN'T IT?

TRUE, HE DIDN'T SAY A LOT, BUT

.....

.....

IT'D BE GOOD IF THAT WAS TRUE...

DOESN'T IT MEAN THAT COACH CAN'T RELAX FOR A SECOND, TOO?

ONE GOAL IN TODAY'S GAME WILL MEAN EVERYTHING.

NO...

IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE THAT...

ALL RIGHT!

DON'T LOSE IN THE CLASH!!

DEDO

DEDO EXPRESS

adidas

YEAH !!

WAAAAH

GOOD, SEKO!

YOU'RE ON A ROLL TODAY!

MARK IS OKAY!

MENDES HAS THE BALL!!

TRY COMING IF YOU CAN!!

KURUMI

DEDO

23

TIRE
D&D

HE GOT THE BALL IN A GREAT POSTION IN THE MIDDLE!!

KEN-SAMA IS HERE!!

THAT WAS A GOOD PASS.

SO YOU CAME NOW,

!!

LEGEND-SAN

MENDES.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE SPEED TO SHAKE ME OFF!!

HE'S TRYING TO DODGE HIM!

OOH!!

THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY IN FOOTBALL.

HEH

IF THERE'S AN OPEN-ING EVEN FOR JUST A SECOND,

OOOH!

WELL DONE!!

DON'T GET COCKY, YOU BRAT!

I AM...

HE CONNECTED WITH MARUO-KA!!

HE MADE A CUT!!

I'M BETTER THAN...

KAN-CHAN WHO ALWAYS ACTED BIG FROM LONG AGO!!

IT'S KEN-SAMA!!!

OEDO
EXPRESS

UWAH!!!

A DIRECT HIT TO THE BAR!!!

GREAT, KEN!!

OOOH!

THAT'S NOT A SHOT FROM A 41-YEAR OLD!

THIS IS SURELY THE PRIDE OF JAPAN!

HE'S REALLY AMAZ-ING!!

SUD-DENLY SHOW-ED HIS PRES-ENCE!!

Ken-san!

Ke...

OH MY.

I, TOO, STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IF THAT SHOT MISSED.

WE CAN DO IT!! WE CAN WIN THIS GAME! YAMAGATA!!

IT'S TERRIFIC WHEN KEN JOINS THE ATTACKS!!

KEN!

BAM BAM

KING!

BAM BAM BAM

ETU

THEY'VE COMPLETE-LY LET YAMAGATA GET INTO THE GAME.

KING!

BAM BAM BAM

SHOULD WE MAKE A MOVE?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, COACH?

DAMN

DON'T BE SWAYED BY THEIR PACE!

WHAT AMAZING IMPACT...

GRR RR!

YAMAGATA'S SUPPORTERS BECOME THIS EXCITED WHEN KEN COMES UP BIG AT HOME!

I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE...

I...

オ オ

slip

オ オ オ

.....

COACH ?

UUUGH... NOT GOOD, MACCHAN.

.....

MY HEAD DOESN'T WORK.

I'M TOO SLEEPY

#192 end

KEN-SAMA
IN HIS PRIME

GIANT
KILLING
vol.20

#193

PEOPLE ARE USELESS WHEN THEY DON'T SLEEP, HUH.

TRULY...

HOOD

.....

LOOKS LIKE THAT CAME BACK TO HAUNT ME NOW.

THOSE 2 DAYS I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH SLEEP BECAUSE I'VE BEEN THINKING OF THE MATCH STRATEGY.

I TRIED TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER, BUT

.....

yawn

SUCH A PAIN.

YOU CAN'T TRICK YOUR OWN BODY. YEP.

LET ME SLEEP FOR 5 MINUTES.

YOU CAN'T !!!

#193

MOREOVER, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SAY IT...

THE BAR WAS STRIKED! BY THAT KEN-SAMA OF ALL PEOPLE!

BUT WE ARE IN A BIT OF PINCH RIGHT NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN THINKING!? WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH! THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH!!

.....

THE STADIUM IS IN HIGH SPIRITS FOR YAMAGATA!!

WITH ONE ATTACK FROM THE SUPER STAR...

MON-TEBIA YAMA-GATA!

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

MON-TEBIA YAMA-GATA!

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

FOR HEAV-EN'S SAKE!!

BUT NOW EVEN COACH BECAME LIKE THIS!!

WE ARE ALREADY IN A BAD SITUA-TION...

DON'T SLEE-EEP!!

.....

AAH... UH-HUH

.....

IS THE SITUATION THAT BAD?

.....

IT'S BAD. HEHE...

THE SITUATION ALREADY IS 100% BAD. HEHE...

MA... MATSU-SAN...

WHEN THE PERSON HIMSELF, WHO SAYS THAT HE'S SLEEPY, BLURTS OUT SUCH THING...

IT'S NOT THAT I FEEL CONFI-DENT, BUT...

BUT IF THE DEVELOP-MENT WAS REALLY UN-EXPECTED

EVEN I WOULDN'T BE SLEEPY, DON'T YOU THINK?

WELL ...

THE REST DEPENDS ON THE GUYS ON THE PITCH.

.....

I'LL TRUST THEM

WHETHER THEY ARE LOOKING AT THIS SITUA-TION

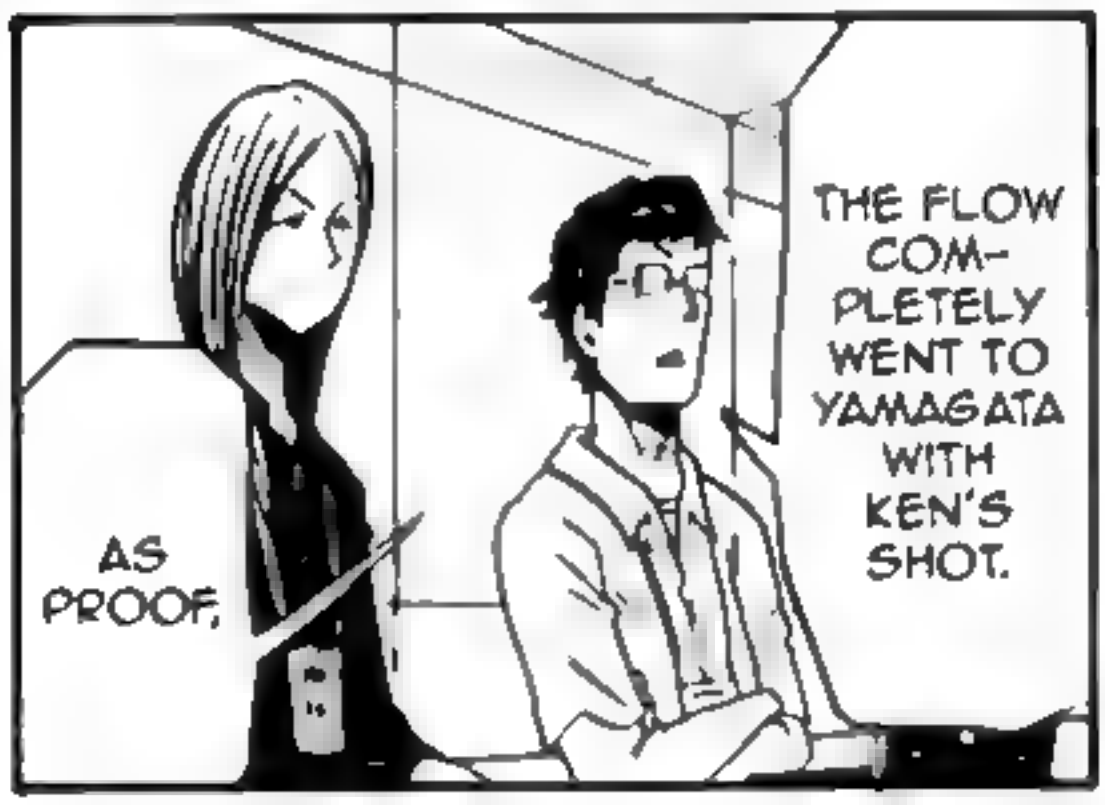
THE SAME WAY AS ME OR NOT.

WA-WA-... WAIT A MINUTE, COACH!

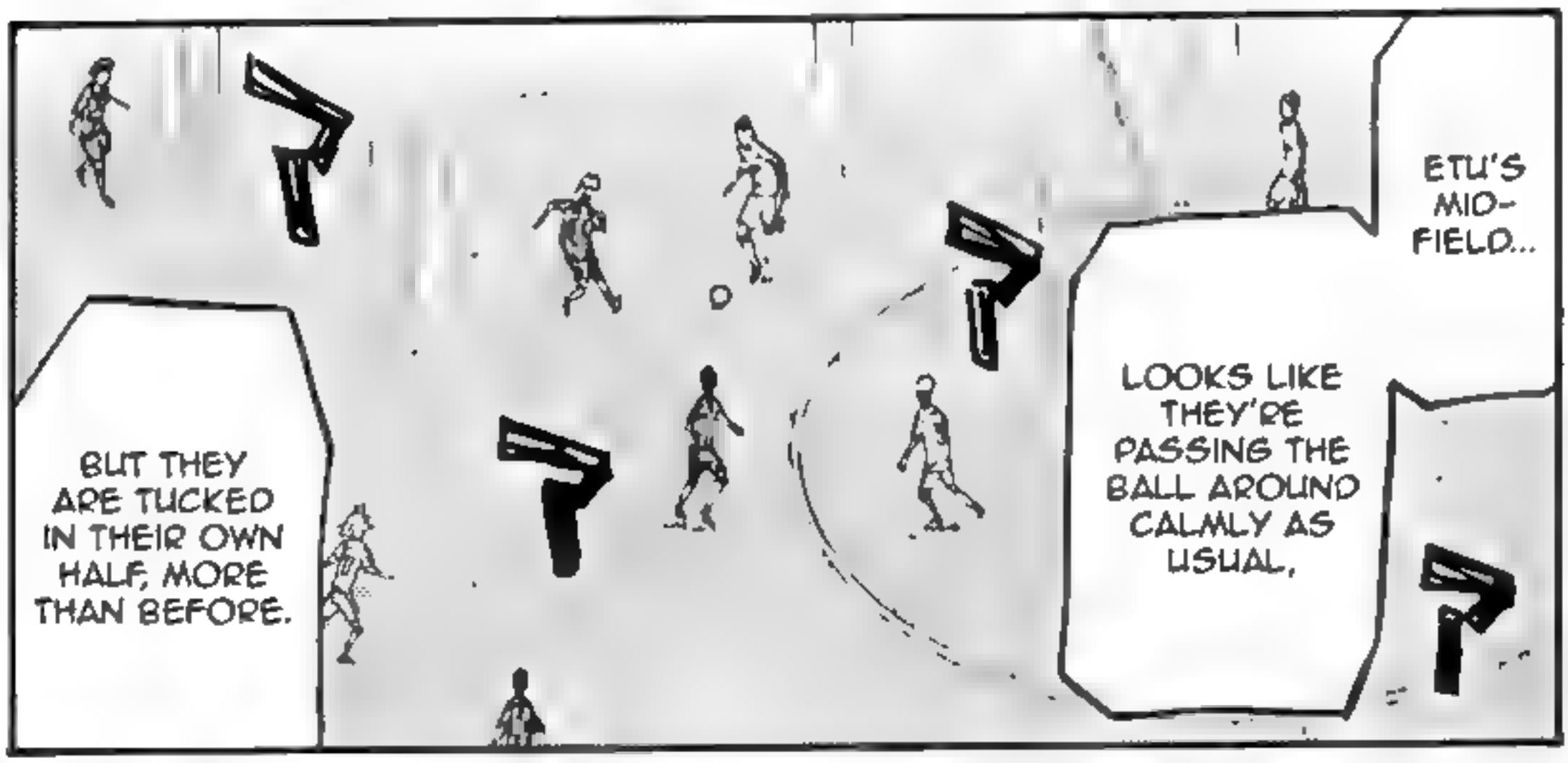
AND GET SOME SLEEP IN PREPERA-TION FOR THE SECOND HALF.

WAKE ME UP, OKAY

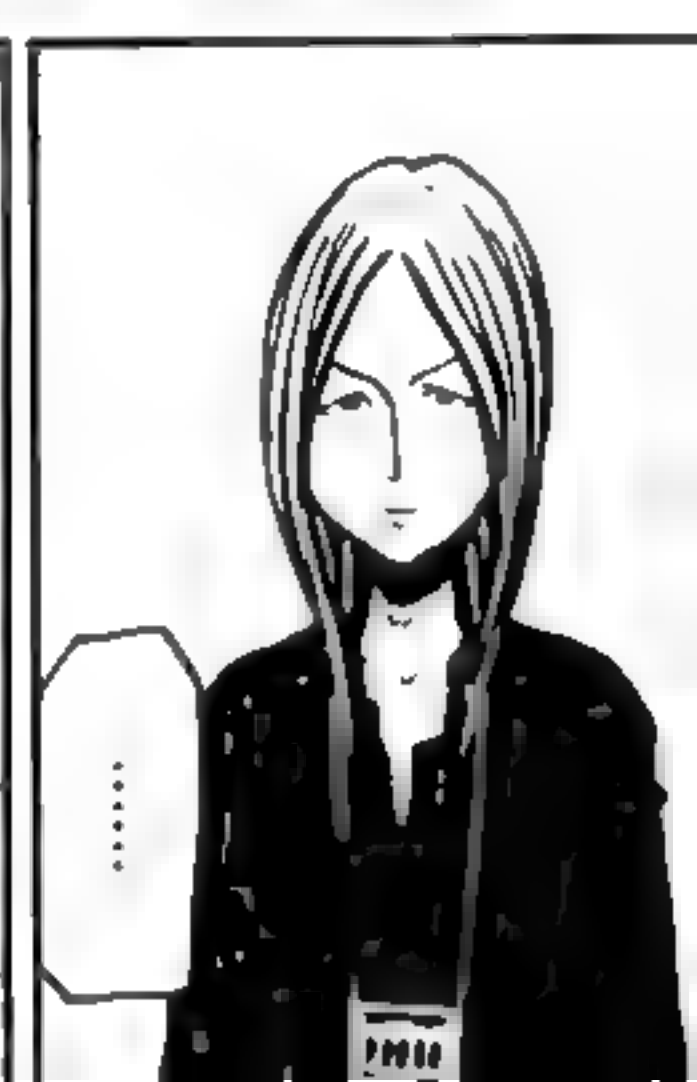
HEY!


AS PROOF,
THE FLOW COM- PLETELY WENT TO YAMAGATA WITH KEN'S SHOT.

THE GAME'S IN YAMAGATA'S PACE.


BUT THEY ARE TUCKED IN THEIR OWN HALF, MORE THAN BEFORE.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PASSING THE BALL AROUND CALMLY AS USUAL.
ETU'S MID- FIELD...

YAMAGATA'S DEFENSE, OF COURSE, IS WON- DERFUL, BUT...
ETU'S ATTACKS GRADUALLY BECOME DULL
ON THE CON- TRARY..
YAMA- GATA'S PRESSURE, INSTEAD, IS MORE AGGRES- SIVE,


.....

ETU'S TEMPO

IS MESSED UP AROUND AKASAKI'S AREA.

DEPEND-ING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT,

IT CAN ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS HE WAS CLEVERLY LURED BY YAMAGATA AND SHUT DOWN.

AKASAKI IS IN CHARGE OF STARTING ATTACKS WHEN HE GETS THE BALL FROM THE TEAM,

BUT HE WAS TOO FIXATED ON THAT, AND SELF-DESTUCTED INSTEAD.

EVEN SO, ETU IS TRYING TO ATTACK USING THEIR IN-GENUITY...

BUT IT TURNS INTO IRREGULAR ATTACKS WITH BAD TEMPO.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE ETU CAN SCORE NOW.

TO BE HONEST,

INDEED... AS YAMAI-SAN SAID,

ETU'S ATTACKS SEEM TO BE GRADUALLY GETTING OUT OFF BALANCE...

.....

BUT YAMAGATA'S DEFENSE IS QUICK SO THEY ALMOST COULDN'T GET THE SHOT OFF.

THE MIDFIELDERS TRIED A FEW SHOTS FROM A GOOD SITUATION...

NATSUKI TOO, KEEPS ON RECKLESSLY CHALLENGING MENDES HEAD-ON.

AS EXPECTED, AKASAKI'S ATTACKS ARE BLOCKED OFF.

.....

THE ARE TRYING IT, BUT THE TEMPO IS FAST SO THEIR ATTACKS ARE REBOUNDED...

BREAK-THROUGH FROM THE SIDE ...?

BUT SOMETHING ...

.....

NO,

IT'S NOT THAT.

SET PLAY ...?

INDEED, THERE WAS ONLY A FEW OF THEM FROM A GOOD POSITION,

SOME-THING IS MISSING ...

...IS THE PECULIAR FEELING FROM A TEAM THAT IS LED BY TATSUMI TAKESHI... THE FEELING OF OUTWITTING THE OPPONENT.

WHAT ETU IS MISSING NOW...

ETU STILL HASN'T SHOWN A PLAY WITH SUCH INTENT.

ATTEMPTS TO TURN THE GAME OVER WITH ONE PLAY...

OR

ARE THEY AWAITING FOR A CHANCE ...?

DO

IN THIS GAME THEY...

DON'T HAVE THAT VISION ...?

DEDO

DIKO

IT'S WORK-ING, WORK-ING!

!!

!!

!!

THEY CAN'T MOVE THE BALL WELL!

OUR PRESS FROM EARLIER IS WORKING!!

DON'T RELAX, AND MOVE YOUR LEGS!

IF WE DO THAT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE MIDFIELD!

UKURA

21

AYE, CAP-TAIN!

SEKO! IT'S WEIRD TO STRIKE A TRIUM-PHANT POSE THERE!

EVERYONE IS HIGHLY MOTIVATED TO STEAL THE BALL...!

WE ACT LIKE GREAT

NO MATTER HOW SIMPLE THE STYLE IS, IF WE HONE IT...

WE CAN PLAY SUCH HIGH-QUALITY FOOTBALL...!

THEY ALWAYS DESCRIBED US AS "TOO DEFENSIVE" OR "CAN'T SCORE", BUT...

JF LEAGUE JAPAN

0-1

THE QUESTION IS QUALITY...!

HEY!

IF THE RIGHT BALL CAME TO ME JUST NOW, I COULD'VE SCORED, YOU KNOW!?

MENDES, YOU THINK YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOOK AWAY!?

.....

OHKURA!

OF COURSE, SUCH BALL DOESN'T QUITE COME, THOUGH!

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME!

SHUDDER

I SEE.

オオオ

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS,

BUT YOUR DETERMINATION REACHED ME.

UU-UH...

I TRIED TO PROVOKE YOU BUT SOMEHOW I HURT MYSELF...

.....

I'LL HAVE TO TEACH YOU THAT LUCK DOESN'T COME

TO THOSE WHO MISTAKE "RECKLESSNESS" FOR "COURAGE".

GOOD... THIS IS A GOOD FLOW.

ETU IS REACHING A DEAD-LOCK...

.....

.....

WE'LL TAKE CONTROL WHILE DEFENDING...

THIS IS TRULY THE IDEAL DEVELOPMENT FOR US...

SHOULD WE PROOCEED TO THE NEXT STAGE...?

BUT, SOMETHING BOTHERS ME...

CO-ACH!

THEIR BENCH ...

#18 MIYANO IS URGENTLY WARMING UP!

IS THIS EVERYTHING THAT ETU HAS...?

.....

AS PREDICT-ED...!

AKASAKI IS GETTING SUBSTI-TUTED...!!

AS I THOUGHT, THEIR STRONG POINT WAS AKASAKI...!

I WAS CONVINCED WHEN I SAW MIYANO'S NAME IN THEIR LINEUP.

SAME AS IN THE PREVIOUS GAME, HE PROBABLY EXPECTED THAT AKASAKI WOULD CONTRIBUTE QUICKLY...

IF YOU ARE TRYING TO CHANGE THAT IN THE FIRST HALF...

THAT'S WHY TATTSUMI PUT MIYANO ON THE BENCH FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...

AKASAKI'S WORN OUT FROM PLAYING CONSECU-TIVELY, HIS STAMINA CAN'T HOLD UP FOR 90 MINUTES...

ETU IS GETTING OFF TRACK...!

THERE'S NO NEED TO HESITATE ANYMORE...

THIS IS OUR CHANCE...!!

!

EH

CAIDO

DO FIBU

OIKURA
22
SERA
20
UEDO
EXPRESS
20
20

#193 end

GIANT
KILLING
vol.20

#194

AND...

NATSUKI-SAN IS KEEPING MENDES'S ATTENTION...

YEP!

OKAY...

HIS ATTENTION IS TURNED TO THE FRONT, RATHER THAN AROUND HIMSELF...!

#6 HAS MOVED UP!!

I CAN DO IT...!

HASEGAWA, KEEP HIM IN CHECK!

OH MY

HEHE ...

IT'S GOOD FOR A YOUNG BOY TO BE STRAIGHT-FORWARD

#10, OKAY!!

THEY'VE SETTLED INTO A GOOD FORMATION BEFORE I KNEW IT, HUH.

BUT IF YOU BECOME FOOL-ISHLY HONEST ...

LADIES, TOO, WILL RUN AWAY FROM YOU.

.....!

LINH

.....!

!

!!

!!

!!

#194

CHANGED

HE SCORED!!!
ETU OPENED THE SCORING!!!

EAH!!

DEDU EXPRESS GO

Y-

REALLY, A FLASH OF PASS!!

YAHOO !!

SERA !!!

WAS IT KIYO WHO MADE THE PASS!?

KIYO-SAN

SERA !

BAM BAM

OW!

I CAN'T SEE.

SIT DOWN.

IT HURTS, DORI-SAN.

IT'S BIG!! THIS ONE GOAL IS VERY BIG!!

A NICE GOAL WITH PERFECT TIMING!!

WELL DONE, YOU TWO!!

ドンッ

SHAKES COA-CH!!

WE SCORED! WE SCORED THE OPENING GOAL!

SHAKES

WE DID IT!!

YEAH!!

HM?

poof

YOU'RE STILL GOING TO SLEEP?!

KINDAIKI

KINDAIKI

DAMN

THAT WAS OUR MIS-TAKE..

WE WERE TOTALLY CARE-LESS .!

WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE?...

NO.

WHY DID I HESITATE TO MAKE AN ADJUSTMENT EVEN THOUGH I NOTICED...!!

WAS SLOWLY PULLED TO THE FRONT..

THAT OUR LAST LINE

IT CREATES THE SPACE BETWEEN THE MIDFIELD AND THE LAST LINE.

IF WE LEAN FORWARD TOO MUCH

FOR US, WHO FOCUS THOR-OUGHLY ON DE-FENSIVE FOOT-BALL.

SUCH AN OBVIOUS THING

THE OP-PONENTS AIM BEHIND THE LAST LINE, LIKE NOW.

IF WE TRY TO KEEP IT COMPACT

THE POSITION WHERE WE STEAL THE BALL IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT TACTICAL POINTS

WHY DID WE, WHO SHOULD'VE BEEN STRICTLY FOLLOWING THE ORDER AND THE SYSTEM...

OVERLOOK THIS...!

NO.

IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, HUH.

FOR YAMA-GATA.

DEEP DOWN

I KNOW THE REASON...

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

WERE SET ON BREAKING YAMAGATA FROM THE START.

PERHAPS, ETU'S GUYS

THEY KEPT THE HIGH DEFENSIVE LINE AND WENT ALL OUT ON THE ATTACKS.

PIII

WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT A COUNTER,

AND WENT FOR A COUNTER WHEN THEY HAD THEIR FEW CHANCES.

ENDURED THOSE POWERFUL ATTACKS WITH THEIR SPECIALITY, ALL-TEAM DEFENSE,

ON THE OTHER HAND, YAMA-GATA

WHO DIDN'T PUT PLAYERS IN DEFENSE.

THE COUNTERS WERE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ETU,

AND IT WAS DONE AT A HIGH LEVEL TOO...

YAMAGATA WAS FOCUSED MORE THAN USUAL AND WITHSTOOD THAT.

AGAINST ETU THAT WERE AT-TACKING SO RECKLESSLY AS NEVER BEFORE,

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE SAYING THAT AGAINST TODAY'S ETU

IT WAS EASY FOR YAMAGATA TO GET WRAPPED UP IN THEIR OWN STYLE?

FOR YAMAGATA IT SHOULD'VE BEEN THE IDEAL DEVELOPMENT.

THEY EVEN SEIZED THE MATCH'S PACE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THAT WAS PLANNED...

BUT I CAN SAY WITHOUT A DOUBT

HOWEV-ER, ETU AIMED

FOR THE OPENING THAT WAS BORN THEN?

AND YAMA-GATA,

HAS TO SNATCH AWAY 2 GOALS FROM A DRAWN BACK OPPONENT TO WIN.

THAT ALREADY HAS WEAK OFFENSIVE ABILITY,

NOW ETU

CAN DRAW BACK AND DEFEND AGAINST YAMAGATA.

THOUGH, THIS MATCH IS STILL IN THE FIRST HALF...

.....

ETU UNDOUBT-EDLY

HAS AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE.

YAMAGATA'S COUNTERS ARE FAST SO PAY EXTRA ATTENTION.

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT BASTARD...

BUT WE WANT TO HAVE MORE PLAYERS IN THE ATTACKS,

DAAH!

IT WAS REALLY TIRE-SOME.

THAT WE CAN'T DEFEND DRAWN BACK AGAINST A COUN-TER RIDING ON THE SPEED.

777

JR LEAGUE JAP

1-1

1-1

THAT'D BE THE END RIGHT THERE IF YOU DO.

DON'T LET THEM SHAKE YOU OFF.

A-ARE YOU FOR REAL?

!!

YOU TWO, DO SOME-THING BY YOUR-SELVES.

SO BASI-CALLY,

SHOW THOSE YOUNG BIRDS

THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR EXPERIENCE.

WELL,

THE OPPO-NENTS ARE YOUNG-STERS.

realize

THAT JERK DIDN'T EVEN GIVE US HELPFUL ADVICE BUT STILL DUMPED AN UNREASONABLE JOB ON US!!

BE GRATEFUL, YOU DUMBASS COACH!!!

EDO

PRESS

.....

SOMEHOW I FELL FOR HIS SPEECH...

BUT IF I THINK ABOUT IT...

!!

!!!

YAAAWN

KURODA

THOSE WORDS FROM COACH DID THEIR JOB.

PER-HAPS,

AS EX-PECTED, WE GOT WORN OUT...

BUT NO ONE LOST THEIR CONCEN-TRATION...

Hab

EDO

IN ANY CASE, TO GET THE GOAL

USE BOTH YOUR HEAD AND YOUR LEGS AT FULL POWER

AND JUST REMEMBER THAT

EVEN IF YOU DON'T QUITE GET THE RESULT, OR EVEN IF IT'S TIRESOME, KEEP GOING.

IT'S DEFINITELY HARDER ON DEFENDING SIDE THAN ON THE ATTACKERS.

IF THE SCORE IS 0-0,

WITHOUT A DOUBT, YAMAGATA'S GUYS

ARE GONNA BE MORE TIRED THAN YOU.

SORRY TO GET YOU EVEN MORE TIRED...

IN OUR PACE FROM NOW ON..!

BUT WE'LL ADVANCE THIS MATCH

THIS WILL DO FOR THE FIRST HALF

ETU REALLY TIGHT-ENED THEIR DE-FENSE.

IT WAS A WELL FOUGHT FIRST HALF.

BUT AT THE VERY END THEIR DIFFERENCE HAS SHOWN.

IS THIS THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR TEAM'S ABILITIES?

OR

IS IT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BOTH COACHES' COMMAND?

SFX PII

SFX PII

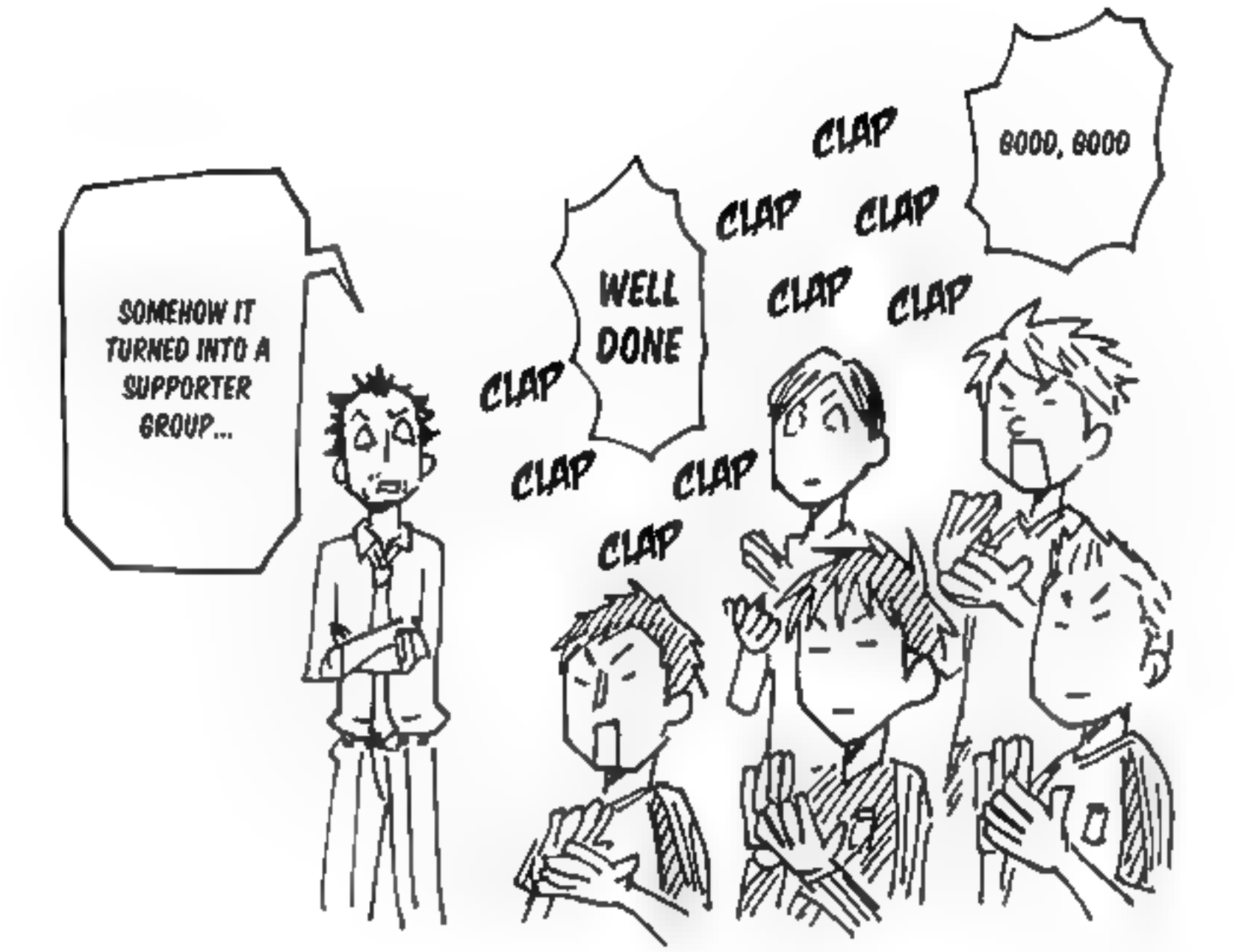
WHICH ONE WILL IT BE IN THE END?

ピピー！

0-1

0-1

THIRD


SOMEHOW IT TURNED INTO A SUPPORTER GROUP...
WELL DONE
GOOD, GOOD
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

GIANT
KILLING
vol.20

PI-

195

PI-

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BUT AT THE END OF THE FIRST HALF IT'S COMPLETELY OUR GAME!!

OKAY!! FOR A WHILE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN...

GOOD JOB, GUYS!!

#195

J2 LEAGUE JAPAN DIVISION 1

0 · 1

0 · 1

LET'S GO

YES

.....

.....

.....

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE PROUD ABOUT!

yawn

AND YOU STILL LOOK SLEEPY!

BUT IT WAS A FIRST HALF OF PURE SLEEPINESS?

SAK-KURA

HEH

YOU SAID THAT "YOU'LL BLOW MY SLEEPI-NESS AWAY..."

GUNDO

オ オ オ

THAT BEING SAID, DON'T FORGET!

IN A GAME THAT'S EXPECTED TO BE LOW SCORING, A 1 GOAL LEAD AFTER THE FIRST HALF IS PRETTY BIG!

THIS IS AN AWAY GAME!!

DON'T BE OVER-WHELMED BY THEIR SUPPORT-ERS WHO EXCEED IN NUMBERS!!

THEY SUR-PRISED ME...

.....

WE'LL LET OUR VOICES OUT FROM OUR HEARTS AND SUP-PORT THE PLAYERS IN THE SECOND HALF, TOO!!

FROM A SITUATION THAT SEEMED COMPLETELY DISADVAN-TAGEOUS...

WHEEY !!!

ARE SERA AND KIYOKAWA...

MORE-OVER, THE ONES WHO LED TO THE GOAL...

THEY DIDN'T MISS EVEN A MOMENTARY CHANCE...

AND SECURED THE SITUATION...

IN THIS SEASON, KEEP IMPROVING AS IF THEY WERE TRANSFORMED.

THE GUYS WHO LACKED OPPORTU-NITIES TO PLAY UNTIL LAST YEAR...

AND IT'S NOT ONLY THEM.

IF THE PLAYERS DIDN'T GAIN SELF-CON-FIDENCE.

THEY COULDN'T HAVE CHANGED LIKE THIS

BUT STILL, ETU DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A STRAIGHTFOR-WARD ATTACKING STYLE IN RECENT YEARS...

WHILE THERE WERE YAMA-GATA'S COUNTER-ATTACKS COMING AT THEM,

EVEN THOUGH UNTIL LAST YEAR...

LIKE YAMAGATA, THEY RIGOROUSLY DEFENDED IN FRONT OF GOAL...

.....

WE CAN'T BE SATISFIED JUST WITH THAT.

BUT STILL...

WE HAVE TO WIN AND GET THE 3 POINTS...!

GETTING ONE POINT ISN'T ENOUGH.

TO CUT INTO THE TOP RANKS

WE DEFINITELY HAVE TO KEEP WINNING POINTS...

OKAY, LET'S DO IT!!

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!?

Buoooooo ooooo!!

HSHHH

WIPES WIPES WIPES

!!

Buwah

splatter

BAM

buooo buoo goo gooo ~~

buogo... guo... bo...

I CAN FINALLY SEE THE WORLD CLEARLY!

UWAH

TH-THANK YOU FOR THE HARD WORK

YOU'RE WEL-COME

OKAY. HAS YOUR SLEEPI-NESS DISAP-PEARED!?

GO GIVE THE INSTRUC-TIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF!!

.....

WERE YAWNING DURING THE MATCH, WEREN'T YOU!!?

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINK-ING!!?

WHILE WE PUT EVERYTHING ON THE LINE...

.....

MACCHAN, WHY DON'T YOU DO IT, TOO?

Haa. THAT'S WHAT I'D CALL RE-FRESH-ING.

.....

ME TOO...

RATHER, YOU...

I... THOUGHT YURI-SAN WAS TRYING TO KILL HIM...

IT WAS MUCH WORSE THAN YAWNING.

YAWN-ING? I WAS?

SORRY, SORRY.

IN THIS GAME

THE SECOND HALF IS THE ESSENTIAL POINT.

IF YOU ASK WHAT I WAS THINK-ING...

GOOD JOB IN THE FIRST HALF.

YOU ALL TOOK THE RISK AND ATTACKED AGGRESSIVELY, THIS 1 GOAL IS THE RESULT OF THAT.

NATSUKI, TOO, KEPT MENDES'S ATTENTION.

H-HEY! THAT WAS THE PLAN!!

NATTSU GOT HIS BUTT KICKED TOO MUCH.

THE DEFENDERS DEALT WITH COUNTERS ON THE BORDERLINE WELL.

THAT'S RIGHT!!

THE MIDFIELD, CENTERING AROUND HOTTA,

USED ALL OF THE PITCH AND PASSED THE BALL AROUND...

TARGETTED BEHIND THE CENTRE-BACKS AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT MOMENT.

AND SERA, TOO, WHILE MOVING AROUND AS A SHADOW STRIKER...

SHAKES

SHAKES

NO, IT WAS GOOD! GOOD!!

RIGHT, COACH!? SEE, HE'S AGREEING!!

.....

EH? "IT SEEMS" ...?

AH!!

AND IT SEEMS KIYOKAWA ALSO MADE A GOOD ASSIST...

REALLY WELL PLAYED.

.....

AKASAKI GOT WORKED UP A BIT TOO MUCH, HUH.

I FELT IMPATIENT OF TSUBAKI'S BREAK-THROUGH POWER RECENTLY...

AND ENDED UP GETTING FIXATED ON MY DRIBBLE TOO MUCH.

HE SAW THROU-GH ME, HUH...

TSK ...

I KNOW THAT YOU WERE TIRED OUT,

BUT YOU CAN DO MORE THAT THAT, RIGHT?

THEIR COACH WAS EXTRA CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE RIGHT SIDE.

AS I SAID BEFORE THE MATCH, YOU'LL ONLY PLAY IN THE FIRST HALF,

DAMN!

SMASH

BUT IN THE END THE OUTCOME WASN'T BAD.

OEDO

THANKS TO THAT, THEIR KEY MAN

FADED AWAY IN THE FIRST HALF.

?

Locker Room 1

.....

JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT WE HAD THE INITIATIVE, WE GOT OVERTURNED WITH ONE DIRECT PASS...

WELL, OF COURSE.

AS EXPECTED, THE ATMOS-PHERE IS HEAVY, HUH...

DAMN. THE TRANSFER OF OUR ABSOLUTE ACE THIS SUMMER REALLY HURT US!!

VITORINO, WHY DID YOU GET CHARMED BY OIL MONEY AND WENT TO MIDDLE EAST! COME BACK!!

EVEN IF WE CAN FIGHT WHEN WE ARE UNDER PUR-SUIT...

WHEN WE ARE THE PURSING SIDE, RIGHT NOW, IT GETS SEVERE IN AN INSTANT...

NORMALLY, WITH THAT TRANSFER MONEY WE SHOULD'VE IMMEDIATELY TRY TO ACQUIRE A FOREIGN PLAYER WITH HIGH SKILLS...

BUT IT'S ONE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE CLUB IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS THAT IT DOESN'T GO SMOOTHLY...

.....

INSTEAD, WE SHOULD THINK HOW TO CATCH UP IN THE SECOND HALF.

STOP BLAMING YOURSELF ALREADY, OHKURA-SAN.

BUT IF I SCORED WITH THAT SHOT IN THE FIRST HALF, THE DEVEL-OPMENT WOULD'VE BEEN DIF-FERENT.

IT'S MY FAULT TOO.

AS SEKO SAID, OHKURA.

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU AS CAPTAIN TO HAVE STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSI-BILITY,

.....

HEY, KAN-CHAN!!

AH... NO.

IT'S NOT ABOUT KEN-SAN...

GEE, ANNOYING. SHUT UP YOU TWO.

ISN'T THAT RUDE TO KEN-SAN!?

NO, KEN-SAN ISN'T AT FAULT!!

BUT AFTER THAT WE LEANED FORWARD TOO MUCH AND IN THE END THEY GOT BEHIND OUR DEFENSIVE LINE, DIDN'T THEY?

THE TEAM COULD RIDE ON A GOOD FLOW BECAUSE OF THAT!!

.....

WE SHOULD PUT YONEDA WHO HAS THE HEIGHT, TO THE FRONT LINE

AND MADE THAT OUR TARGET?

SEKO,

ANYWAY, IN THE SECOND HALF... THE OPPONENTS WILL STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSE.

WE ARE NOT THE ONES

WHO WILL DECIDE THAT, RIGHT?

THE QUESTION IS HOW WE ARE GOING TO BREAK IT.

THE PLAYERS ARE WAITING FOR MY INSTRUCTIONS.

WHAT AM I DOING...!!

THAT USED SPACE AND PLACED EMPHASIS ON SPEED, LIKE IN THE FIRST HALF, WILL BE DIFFICULT.

IN THAT CASE, THE AT-TACKS

IT'S CLEAR THAT ETU WHO OPENED THE SCORE, WILL PULL BACK AND DEFEND IN THE SECOND HALF..

WHAT AM I HESI-TATING OVER?

WE'LL HIT THERE WITH MENDES'S ACCURATE KICKS...

I SHOULD USE 1 SUBSTI-TUTION AND PUT YONEDA IN THE FRONT LINE.

WE CAN ONLY ATTACK NOW.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY IT'S THE BEST PLAN!

NOW WE DON'T HAVE VITORINO WHO COULD FORCE THE SPACE IN FRONT OF GOAL OPEN BY HIMSELF.

TO PREVENT ETU'S COUNTERS AND AIM FOR THE GOAL WHILE KEEPING THE RISK TO THE MINIMUM...!

AND IT'LL BE OVER IF WE CONCEDE THE 2ND GOAL.

WHY DIDN'T I IMMEDIATELY TELL IT TO THE PLAYERS?...

THEN WHY AM I HESITATING?

.....

Shh

THE INSTRUC-TIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF ARE NOT READY YET?

IS SEKO'S HARD WORK ONLY FOR DE-FENSE?

WHY DID OHKURA MOVE UP THE DEFEN-SIVE LINE?

AND WHY DO I KEEP ON PUTTING **HIM** IN THE STARTING LINEUP...?

THE FOOTBALL I WANT TO PLAY...!?

IS FOOTBALL WITHOUT RISKS

TO PLAY SUCH FOOTBALL ....?

DO THE PLAYERS STAND ON THE PITCH

REALLY THINK THAT I CAN WIN...

AGAINST TATTSUMI PLAYING LIKE THAT...!?

DO I

HOW ARE YOU FEELING,

KOMO-RI?

SQUEAL

#195 end

JOLT
Okay. Let's go for the second half!
Y-YES !!!
DEJ

GIANT
KILLING
vol.20

#196

オ オ オ オ オ

THIS WAY, IN THE SECOND HALF, YAMAGATA IS GOING TO ATTACK AND IF ETU'S COUNTER IS SUCCESSFUL,

IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IT'LL BE AN OVER-WHELMING VICTORY FOR ETU.

……

NOW'S SAYING SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

REALLY, IN FOOTBALL THE FLOW CAN COMPLETELY CHANGE IN A MOMENT.

AND YAMAI-SAN WHO WAS INSISTING UNTIL RECENTLY THAT THE GAME WAS IN YAMAGATA'S PACE,

WOW

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT'D TURN OUT LIKE THIS.

.....

NO... I'M JUST SAYING FOOTBALL IS LIKE THIS...

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT I'M A REPORTER WHO CAN'T READ THE GAME'S FLOW AT ALL!?

W-W-W-W-WHAT IS IT, FUJISAWA-CHAN!!

LISTEN?

I HAVE GOOD GROUNDS!!

THEN LET'S MAKE A BET!?

BUT HE'S SUCH A PRIDEFUL MAN...

I WAS ONLY JOKING...

TODAY ETU WILL WIN!

AND THAT WILL CONTINUE IN THE SECOND HALF.

AS OPPOSED TO THAT, YAMAGATA...

ETU HAD SO MANY SHOOTING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIRST HALF

BECAUSE THOSE TWO WORKED TOGETHER AND PROVIDED GOOD PASSES.

TODAY ETU HAS GINO AND HOTTA...

ON THE PITCH AS 2 PLAYMAKERS.

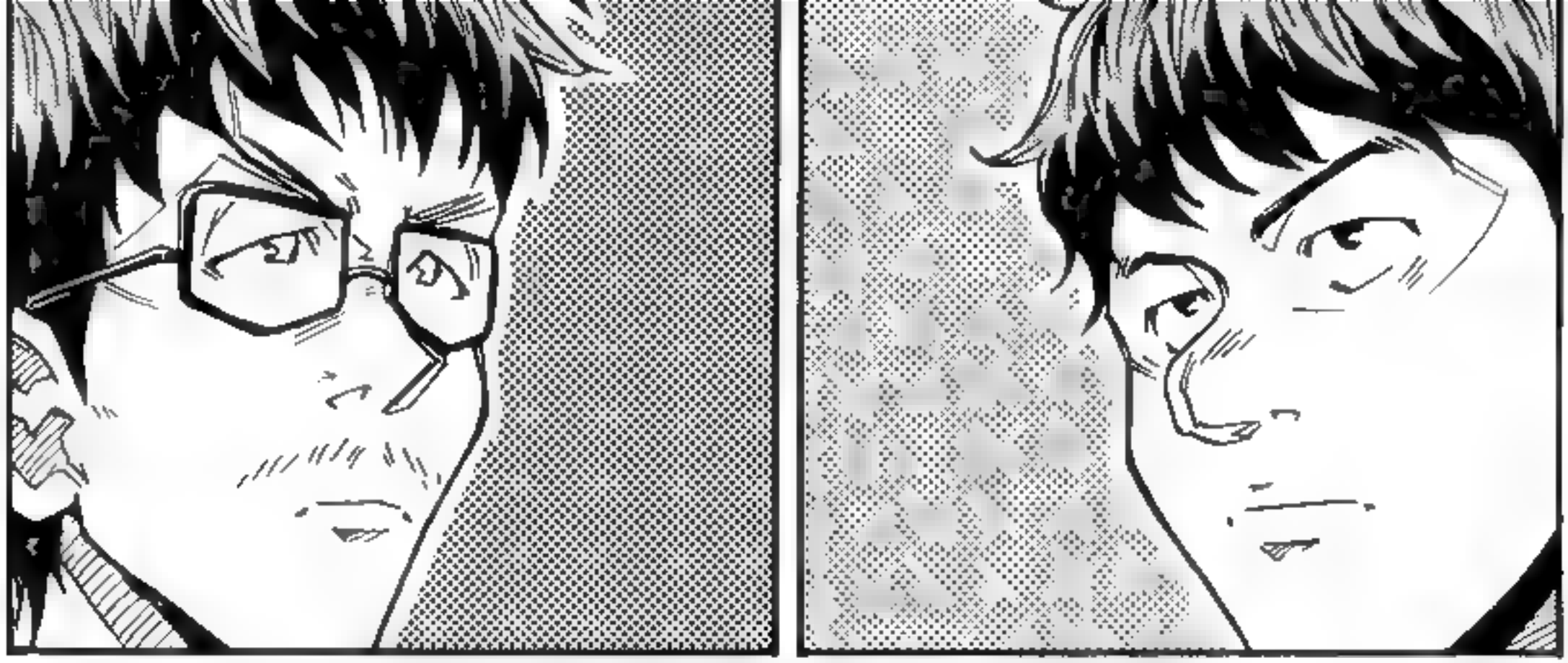
PLAYS A GAME CENTERED AROUND THE LONG-BALL, AFTER ALL.

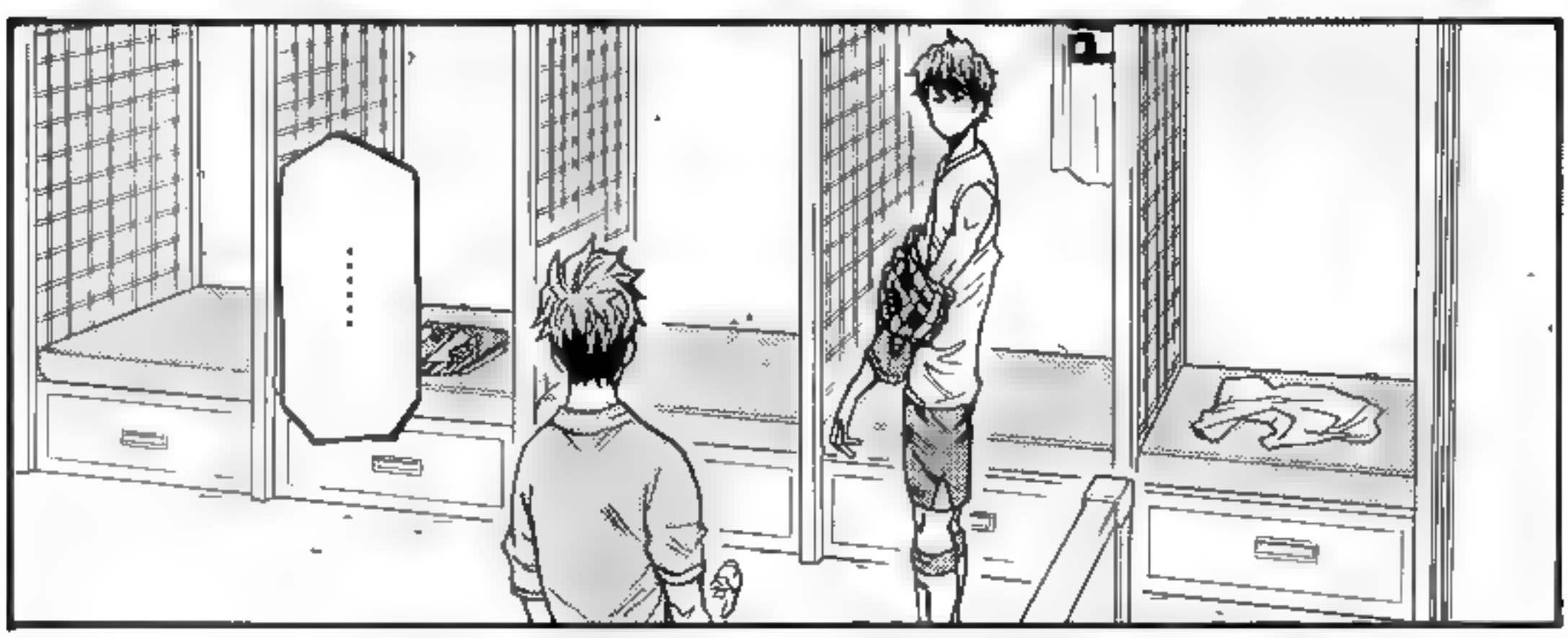
BUT FOR THE SECOND HALF, THAT IS EXPECTED TO BE PLAYED IN NARROW AREA...

THE ABSCENCE OF A PLAYMAKER WHO HAS PRESENCE IN YAMAGATA...

IS FATAL.

196




.....

Sigh
WHAT IS IT?
AGAIN A LECTURE JUST FOR ME?

HOW AM I FEEL-ING...?
.....

THE DEFENSE?
IT'S THAT, AFTER ALL, RIGHT?
UH, YES, YES.

AT ANY RATE...

.....

I'M SO SORRY

THAT I'M POOR AT DEFEND-ING.

EVEN SO, I'M DOING MY BEST IN MY OWN WAY.

YEAH, YEAH.

I TRIED TO DO IT AS SAKURA-SAN SAID,

TO KILL THE PATH BEFORE THEIR #15... AND NOT LET HIM INSIDE.

.....

AND I'M ALWAYS TOLD I LACK SE-RIOUS-NESS, TOO.

MMM...

I WONDER WHY?

ON A SUPER DEFEN-SIVE TEAM, LIKE OURS,

SOMEONE LIKE ME WILL JUST BE A NEGA-TIVE PRESE-NSE, RIGHT?

BUT WELL, IT'S NOT ENOUGH, HUH...

I DON'T THINK THAT SAKURA-SAN'S FOOTBALL IS BORING.

AH.

BY THE WAY,

.....!

SFX SLIDES

EH?

I DIDN'T MEAN IT.

KOMORI... YOU LOOK DOWN ON SAKURA-SAN TOO MUCH.

SORRY, SAKU-RA-SAN.

OKAY, THAT'S IT!!

THIS ATTITUDE OF YOURS MEANS YOU LOOK DOWN ON HIM!!

WELL, FOOTBALL THAT ISN'T BORING, ISN'T EXCITING, EITHER.

I'LL DEAL WITH HIM SOMEHOW, BEAR WITH IT !!

THOSE PLAYERS LOOK DOWN ON ME..!!

RIGHT...!!

.....

A LOT OF PLAYERS WERE SCEPTICAL ABOUT ME WHO HAD ALMOST NO EXPERIENCE AS A PLAYER.

WHEN I FIRST BECAME THE COACH HERE

AND SKILLFULLY ACTED AS A GO-BETWEEN WITH THE PLAYERS

ACCEPTED MY ENTHUSIASM

KEN AND MENDES WHO CAME TO THE TEAM AT THE SAME TIME AS ME.

BUT

I REPEATEDLY KEPT PROPOSING PLANS FOR THE PLAYERS TO WIN.

TO RESPOND TO THEIR FEELINGS

THEY SLOWLY

STARTED TO CHANGE AND BELIEVE IN ME...

AND WHEN WE ACTUALLY

GOT RESULTS IN MATCHES

SLOWLY...

SLOWLY...

.....

THINK THAT SAKURA-SAN'S ABILITY TO ANALYSE IS AMAZING,

I, TOO,

KOMORI ..!!!

DOOOH

GETS TOO LOGICAL AND LACKS EXUBERANCE.

BUT STILL, SOMEONE WITH NO EXPERI-ENCE AS A PLAYER EVEN AS A COACH

STOP IT ALREADY!!

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T CHANGED!!

WHAT DOES HE THINK...

MY FEEL-INGS ARE...

REALLY...

BAM!!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME!!

!!

!!

CUT IT OUT AND LISTEN!!!

WHERE YOUR VALUE IS...!

I KNOW...

TO SHOW THE MINIMUM OF DEFENSE SKILLS!!

KO-MORI!

WHAT I NEED FROM YOU IN DEFENSE IS...

.....

IN THE SECOND HALF

WHEN YOU STEAL THE BALL FIRST OF ALL PASS IT TO KOMORI.

EVERYONE, LISTEN...

WE DID IT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE GAME, RIGHT?

WE TRIED THIS PATTERN IN PRACTICE MINI-GAMES, TOO.

FROM NOW ON

WE'LL LEAVE THE SETTING OF OUR ATTACKS TO KOMORI.

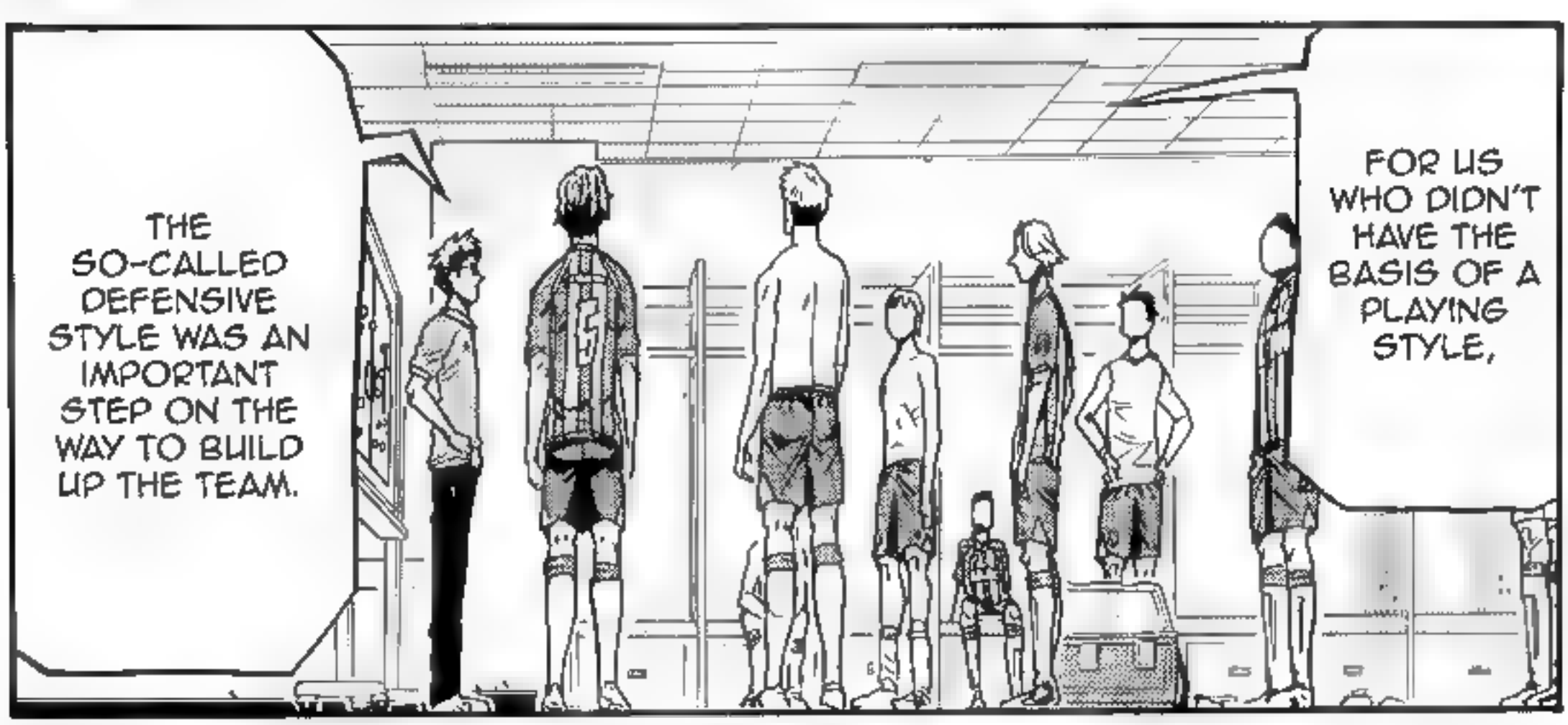
RATHER,

THERE'S A STYLE THAT'S MORE SUITABLE TO US.

BUT THERE'S LIMIT TO

WINNING THROUGH ONE SEASON IN DIVISION 1 WITH THAT STYLE.

THE STYLE WE USED UNTIL NOW, IS THE PLAYING STYLE THAT WORKED IN DIVISION 2...


THE SO-CALLED DEFENSIVE STYLE WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE WAY TO BUILD UP THE TEAM.
FOR US WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE BASIS OF A PLAYING STYLE,

BUT AMONGST THAT, WE IMPROVED OUR INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES...
AND NOW WHEN WE LOST VITORINO...
MAYBE THE TIME FOR US TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP HAS COME.

I WAS HESITAT-ING THAT
IF WE DON'T DO IT CARE-FULLY... EVEN WHAT WE'VE BUILT UP UNTIL NOW MAY FALL APART...

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO HESITATE ANYMORE.

IF WE DON'T ATTACK NOW

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO HIGHER THAN THIS.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS SIMPLE FOOTBALL.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE IMPORTANT PART HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.

THERE IS NO PROB-LEM.

BUT WE HAVE BEEN USING THE SIMILAR PATTERN UNTIL NOW, THE PROBLEM IS...

YOU MAY FEEL UNEASY

KOMORI SYSTEM...

I ALSO THINK IT'S INTERESING.

KOMORI'S PASSING SENSE IS EXCELLENT.

TO MAKE USE OF IT, THE PLAYERS ON THE FRONT LINES MUST MOVE EFFICIENTLY.

.....

KEN.

TO GET THE BALL TO KOMORI

WE'LL LEAVE SEKO CLOSE AS A FOLLOW-UP.

.....

OF COURSE!!

YES!

IN OTHER WORDS, IT DEPENDS ON US.

CAN WE DO IT?

COVER IT IN THE BACK, RIGHT?

WE'LL DO IT.

WITH THAT, THE SPACE THAT WILL BE OPENED ON THE SIDE...

.....

NOW THAT IT CAME TO THIS, WE'LL KEEP RUNNING, FOR ATTACK AND DE-FENSE.

WE CAN ONLY ATTACK NOW.

OHKURA -SAN.

I, TOO, DEFINITELY WON'T LET THEM TAKE THE BACK ANYMORE.

.....

I'LL PUT EVERYTHING ON THE LINE AND STOP THEM.

I UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY WORD COMING FROM YOU...

IS AIMED TO BRING US VICTORY.

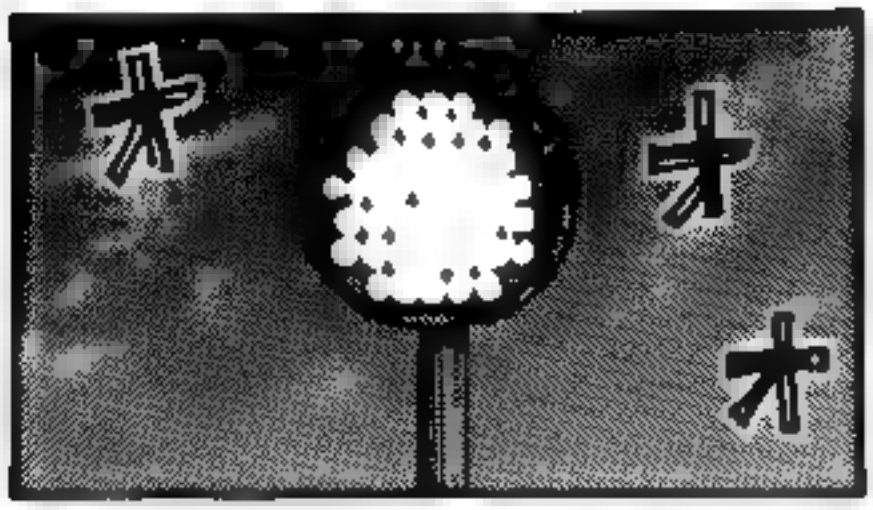
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT FROM US, SAKURA?

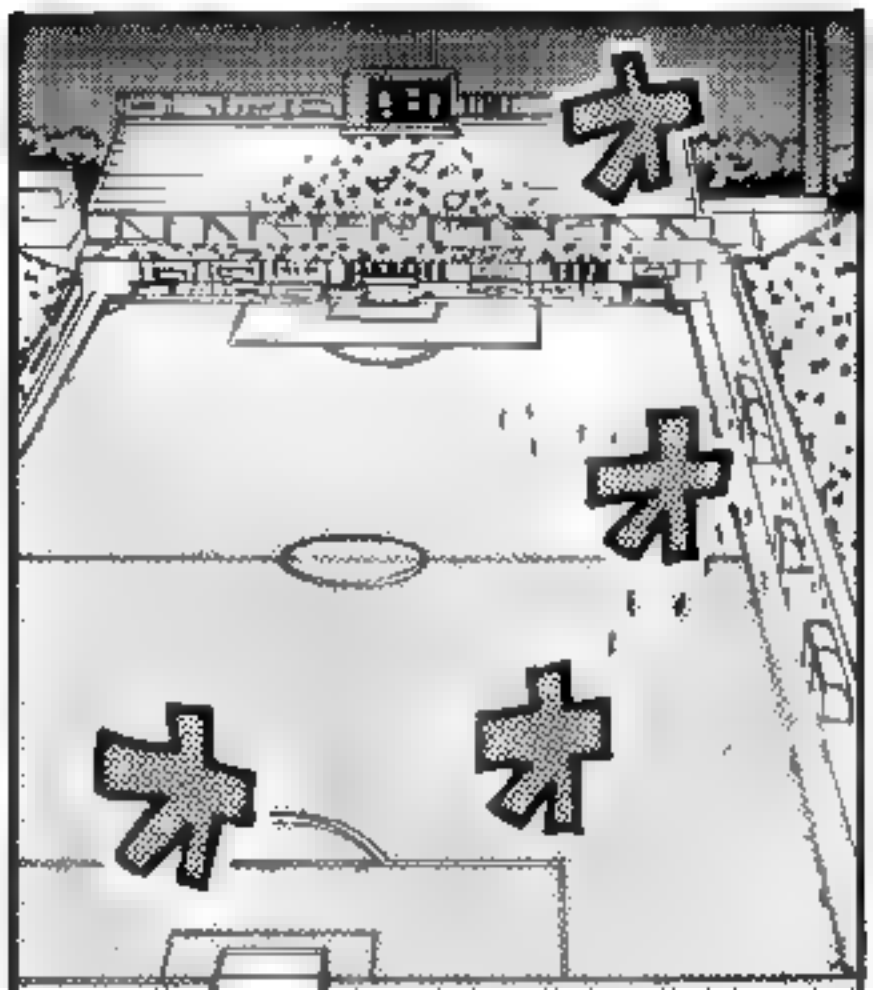
IF SAKURA, OUR BOSS, TELLS US TO RUN

WE'LL RUN UNTILL OUR LEGS BREAK.

WE BELIEVE IN YOU, SAKURA.

THAT'S WHY, BELIEVE IN US, TOO.





MIYANO, IF THERE'S AN OPPOR-TUNITY GO FOR IT!

GOT IT!

GO GET THEM!

'KAY, LET'S GO!

Go 'et 'em!

WELL THEN

HOW WILL IT TURN UP,

SAK-KURA?

WE JUST HAVE TO DO IT!

OKAY, RE-MEMBER...

OOOH!!!

WE'RE GONNA ATTACK!!

KINGRIC

KINGZ

#196 end

Hello. I'm
Vitorino.
I'm cheering
for Yamagata
from far away.

GIANT
KILLING
VOL.20

#197

I'D LIKE THEM TO SCORE ONE MORE GOAL EARLY ON.

CAN THEY KEEP IT UP LIKE THIS!?

YEAH! THE SECOND HALF!!

...

MIYANO, DO YOUR BEST!

THE GUY I THOUGHT WAS SKILL-FUL...

DIDN'T STAND OUT IN THE FIRST HALF.

WAS IT POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE? DON'T SAY SOMETHING INCOMPRE-HENSIVE.

BRING THE RESULTS AND GIVE HOPE TO US, THE RESERVE GROUP!

#197

ゴト

ゴト

TO LET HIM HAVE THE BALL..!

EVEN SO HIS KICKS WERE SO ACCURATE...!

I FEAR IT'S DANGEROUS...

TE
U
!!

BAM BAM BAM

WITH THAT MOMENTUM WE'RE GONNA WIN!!

O-

O-

YAMA-GATA!!

OOH

...

IF WE ARE IN-TIMIDATED BY THEIR SPIRIT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANY-THING!

DON'T LOSE IN A CHAL-LENGE!

CALL OUT TO EACH OTHER!

IF WE MAKE A MISTAKE THEY'LL GO FOR A COUNTER AT ONCE!

WE'LL SCORE 2 GOALS NO MATTER WHAT AND WIN THIS MATCH "

2 GOALS

CALM DOWN

A CHANCE DEFINITELY WILL COME SOME-WHERE

KOMOBI

!!

YEAH

AH...

THE FRONT! FRONT!

IS PUTTING SOME UN-PLEASANT PRESSURE ON ME...

ETU'S CAP-TAIN...

"4"

LET'S PUSH ON MORE AND MORE, KOMORI!

HMMM

THEY THINK THEY CAN FIGHT LIKE THAT IN THE SECOND HALF?

WHAT WAS SAKURA EVEN DOING DURING HALF-TIME?

FORGET ABOUT CHANGING PLAYERS, YAMAGATA DIDN'T EVEN CHANGE THEIR POSITIONS?

ETU, ON THE OTHER HAND, SUBSTITUTED AKASAKI WHO WAS INEFFECTIVE, WITH MIYANO...

WITH THAT THE FRONT LINE WILL GET FIRED UP.

I WAS SO SURE THEY'D MOVE MENDES ONE LINE UP.

JUST TO BE CLEAR, I DIDN'T REALLY BET ON YAMAGATA.

.....

glance

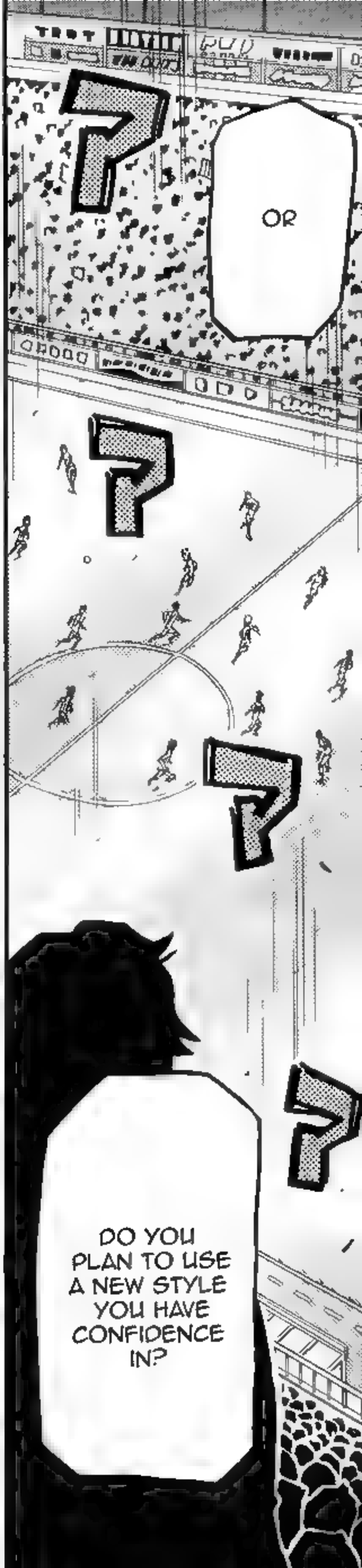
WELL, I BET ON ETU'S VICTORY SO IT'S FINE.

THIS MIDFIELD IS QUITE UNRELIABLE?

WELL THEN HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ATTACK, YAMAGATA?

JAPAN DIVISION 1
0 - 1
0 - 0
0 - 1

THAT'S RIGHT !!
DATA
HYUGA
SANJO
DO YOU PLAN TO USE A NEW STYLE YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN?
THE PLAY THAT WILL DECIDE THE GAME STARTS HERE!
THE DEFENSE WITH THE WHOLE TEAM HASN'T CHANGED!!


OR
?
?
?

KOMORI!!

KOMORI

MOVE HIGHER TO GET THE BALL!!

KHN

5

KHN

...

KH

MIYA-NO!!

OOH

SQU-EEZE IN AND STEAL THE BALL!

MU-RAKOSHI, NICE PRESS-ING!

YES, YES, YES!!

I'M HERE FOR TIMES LIKE THIS!!

HAND IT OVER, KOMORI!!

NICE COVER, SEKO

WH-!?

NICE CUT, HOTTA!!

YOU BAS-TARD!!

IT'S A CHANCE, ETU!!

NATSUKI !!

IT'S GINO!!

UWOOOH!!

SMACK

GINO 10

KEEPER, NICE SAVE!!

.....

SO CLOSE!!

GUWAAH !!

DEFEND HARDER!

DO YOU THINK WE CAN TURN THE GAME AROUND WITH SUCH HALF-HEARTED PLAY!!

.....

HEY, YOU! DON'T LAUGH AND SCORE PROPER-LY!!

HAHA

WE CAN ONLY PRAISE THE KEEPER NOW.

I DOUBT IT, BUT...

NO...

.....

?

?

?

?

SORRY, NOMU-SAN!!

.....

I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!

THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE...!!!

HEH

AS I THOUGHT, THEY STARTED TO GET THE BALL TO KOMORI.

stands

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GATTA

MY PREDICTION IS RIGHT ON MARK!

ARE YOU SURPRISED, SAKKURA?

BUT YOU READ THROUGH IT WELL.

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS HALF IN DOUBT,

WOW

YAMAGATA REALLY PLAYED LIKE YOU SAID, COACH.

!!

squeee-

eeze

WELL

THERE WERE VARIOUS HINTS.

.....

Chuuu!
GATTA
Chuuu!
I WAS SURE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BREAK DOWN THE OPPO-NENT...
WITH DRAWN BACK DE-FENSE,
BUT I FELT IT WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT, TOO.
FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE PREVIOUS MATCH...
WHEN I FELT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PLAY AGAINST THEM...
THAT "OUR VIEW OF FOOTBALL IS SIMI-LAR"...
AND THEN WHAT SAKKURA SAID DURING ALL-STAR GAME...
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.....
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT WE ARE NOT AS DEFENSIVE AS YAMAGATA,
AND YOU CAN'T REALLY NAME THAT 'VIEW OF FOOTBALL'.
TRUE, WE AND YAMAGATA
HAVE STYLE BASED ON COUNTER-ATTACKS ACCORD-ING TO THE OP-PONENT,

WHEN TSUBAKI SAID THAT

I WAS THINKING THIS AND THAT...

BUT HIS PLAY STANDS OUT IN HIS MEMORY"...

"#5 MADE MANY MISTAKES,

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY,

THE TEAM WILL CHANGE IF THEY PUT HIM IN THE CENTER OF THEIR OFFENSE...

IS WHAT I THOUGHT.

AND WHEN I CHECKED YAMAGATA'S GAMES ONCE MORE AFTER THAT,

INDEED, KOMORI'S PLAY SHINED AT CRUCIAL POINTS.

.....

HOW THEY HAVE BEEN PLAYING UNTIL NOW

IS ONLY THE EARLY STAGES OF THEIR TEAM...

WHEN I NOTICED THAT

I FINALLY UNDER-STOOD.

WAS THE UNPLEASANT FEELING THAT THE TEAM CALLED YAMAGATA CAN DO MUCH MORE...

THE REASON I THOUGHT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PLAY AGAINST THEM LAST TIME

YAMAGATA UNTIL NOW IS JUST THE BASIC FORM...

THE STYLE THAT SAKKURA IS AIMING FOR LIES IN THE FUTURE.

.....

THE FEAR THAT BY POLISHING THEIR INDI-VIDUAL ABILITIES

THE TEAM WOULD BECOME

STRONGER AND STRONGER.

HOW-EVER

.....

IN THIS GAME

I WON'T LET THEM PROGRESS THAT FAR.

.....

GIANT KILLING 20 end

The fight is only starting!

GIANT KILLING vol.20

END